

Pakistan: Afghan peace pact not far

ISLAMABAD (R) — Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said on Sunday Pakistan believed the U.N.-sponsored Afghan peace talks were close to a settlement, despite a disappointment at the latest round in Geneva last week. He was quoted by the state-run Pakistan Television (PTV) as saying on return from Geneva he would meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the evening U.N. General Assembly session in New York to accelerate the process. Four days of indirect talks between Pakistani and Afghan foreign ministers ended in deadlock on Thursday with a slight narrowing of differences on a timetable for the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. But only three days later, Mr. Yaqub Khan's remarks in the PTV interview were much milder. "I am disappointed in this round but not disappointed generally," he said. "We believe that we are close to a settlement and that we are within range even on the (troop withdrawal) time-frame issue. A little more confidence and skilful diplomacy would get us a timetable that would be meaningful and purposeful."

Jordan Times

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Soviet-Norwegian air brush reported

OSLO (R) — A Soviet fighter plane brushed the wing and damaged an engine of a Norwegian patrol aircraft in international air space over the Barents Sea on Sunday, Defence Ministry officials said. No one was injured in the incident. Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg protested to the Soviet ambassador in Oslo, Alexander Tejerin, and asked him at a meeting to explain the incident, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Mr. Tejerin said he would report the matter to Moscow immediately and provide an explanation, the spokesman said. A Soviet SU-27 "Flanker," one of Moscow's most advanced fighters, had been closely shadowing the P-3B Orion observation plane on routine patrol, keeping within one or two metres of its wing tip, the defence officials said. The Flanker disappeared at about 0840 GMT, but returned some 15 minutes later and flew too close to the Orion, they said. "The cutter right engine on the Norwegian plane was damaged, but none of the crew was injured," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. "No material damage was observed to the Soviet plane." The Orion shut down its damaged engine and sent out an emergency signal before landing safely at Banak air base in northern Norway.

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Raimond and Khaddam in Jeddah

JEDDAH (AP) — French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond arrived in Jeddah on an unannounced visit Saturday night, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday 24 hours later. The agency gave no explanation why the visit had not been announced previously or why it delayed reporting it. The French Foreign Ministry, which had not reported Mr. Raimond's departure, declined to comment on the purpose of his sudden visit to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Press Agency's delayed report of Mr. Raimond's arrival coincided with another report by the agency saying that Syrian Vice President Abdul Hafiz Khaddam had also arrived in the kingdom Sunday, in another previously unannounced visit. It was not clear if there was any connection between the two unexpected arrivals, or whether Mr. Raimond and Mr. Khaddam might meet.

Bonn regrets attack on Iran Air office

NICOSIA (AP) — The West German ambassador to Tehran expressed his government's regret to Iran Sunday over the takeover of the Iran Air office at Frankfurt earlier in the week by Iranian dissidents, reported Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). The ambassador, Armin Freitag, assured Iran that Bonn attached great importance to the maintenance of good relations with Tehran, the agency added. It said Mr. Freitag gave this assurance to a Foreign Ministry official in Tehran in the wake of last Thursday's takeover by Iranian dissidents of the office of Iran Air in Frankfurt. Mr. Freitag expressed the hope that the incident would not affect the friendly relations between the two countries, IRNA reported.

Vietnam frees thousands from jail

BANGKOK (AP) — The Vietnamese government has ordered the release of 6,685 prisoners, including generals and senior officials of the toppled South Vietnamese regime who had been held in re-education camps, the Vietnam News Agency said Sunday. The official agency, monitored in Bangkok, said the terms for 5,320 others would be reduced under an amnesty to mark two key anniversaries. At least some of the prisoners already have been released, the report said. VNA said that among those to be freed were 480 military and civilian personnel of the former South Vietnamese government, including two ministers, 18 administrative officials, nine officers of general rank, 248 field officers and 117 junior officers.

Many feared killed in Philippine battle

MANILA (R) — Government troops have dislodged communist rebels entrenched in a village near Manila after fierce fighting that may have killed more than 30 people, the army said on Sunday. Major Vidal Quirol said more than 30 people were feared killed on Saturday in 10 hours of fighting between troops and about 40 guerrillas in the rebel stronghold of San Juan, a village in Bataan province, 60 kilometres west of Manila. Maj. Quirol said the rebels had fled and were now being hunted.

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U.N. chief pursues peace mission in Baghdad after talks in Tehran

Khamenei: No acceptance of ceasefire unless Iraq is punished
Iraq warns Iranians of 'more severe war'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The U.N. secretary general arrived here from Tehran on Sunday where Iranian President Ali Khamenei told him Iran would not accept any settlement until Iraq is condemned as the "aggressor" and "punished."

But Iraq warned that Iran must accept the U.N. Security Council's July 20 resolution calling for a ceasefire in its entirety or face "a more severe war."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar as saying he had "valuable" talks during his two-day visit to Tehran.

The agency said that in addition to Mr. Khamenei the U.N. official also conferred with Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, Parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

IRNA added that he was seen off at Mehrabad airport by Mr. Velayati.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz welcomed Mr. Perez de Cuellar when he arrived at Baghdad's international airport.

Francois Giuliani, the secretary general's spokesman, said at the

U.N. headquarters in New York that Mr. Perez de Cuellar "will make no comment whatsoever" on his discussions "until he has briefed the Security Council," on his return on Sept. 17.

Giuliani said he would not draw conclusions based on press reports that the mission was a failure. But he added that his information, obtained by telephone before the secretary general departed for Baghdad was "very, very minimal."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is expected to have talks with Mr. Aziz and President Saddam Hussein before leaving for New York via Paris on Wednesday.

According to Tehran Radio, Mr. Khamenei told the U.N. secretary general: "The only formula that can be accepted by the Iranian nation is one which foresees the punishment of the aggressor."

Iran has repeatedly demanded

that Iraq should be seen as responsible for starting the seven-year-old war and should be punished accordingly.

"That is the logic of our nation," Mr. Khamenei told the U.N. chief.

Mr. Velayati said Tehran would not accept a ceasefire "until justice has been done."

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Mr. Khamenei added: "Considering your good intentions, we hope that this trip will be fruitful."

The radio quoted Mr. Khamenei as saying that "no peace-seeking group has objected to the Nuremberg trials after World War II," so punishing Iraq for starting the war "is acceptable to the world."

Iran claims the war began when Iraq "invaded" in September 1980. But Iraq says the conflict broke out two weeks earlier when Iran shelled border towns.

Tehran Radio did not say if Mr. Khamenei conveyed Tehran's final word on the July 20 resolution to the U.N. chief who arrived in Tehran Friday on his crucial peace mission.

But Iraq said Sunday it will reject any alteration in Resolution 598, making clear it wants Mr. Perez de Cuellar to head for Baghdad with an unequivocal acceptance or rejection by Iran.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council met overnight under the chairmanship of President Hussein and declared Iraq would abide by the resolution "provided Iraq declares a clear-cut stand in support of the call."

The agency stressed: "Iraq will not accept any alteration, manoeuvring or equivocation with regard to the resolution."

The Baghdad meeting, INA said, was to "watch Iran's stand and to define accordingly (Iraq's) stand towards it in the light of a clear and declared acceptance of (Security Council) Resolution 598 as a whole, without any partitioning or manoeuvring."

INA said the Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling

(Continued on page 3)

GCC closes ranks against Iran, offers to help U.N. peace mission

Gulf states condemn threats against S. Arabia and Kuwait

BAHRAIN (AP) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Sunday expressed readiness to help U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's Gulf peace mission and condemned Iranian threats against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The GCC foreign ministers, winding up a two-day conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, urged Tehran to respond to U.N. Security Council's July 20 resolution calling a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

That, they said in a communique, would bolster peace and stability in the Gulf "and thereby distance the region from foreign interventions."

"The conference reviewed efforts of the U.N. secretary-general to implement Security Council Resolution 598, affirming readiness of the Gulf powers to exert all efforts necessary to facilitate his mission and ensure its success," the statement said.

It did not refer to any specific action. But GCC states have, individually and collectively, sought to mediate peace between Iran and Iraq since they went to war in 1980.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Hammadi dismisses Iranian claim of capturing Silk worms from Iraq

PEKING (AP) — A senior Iraqi official on Sunday denied Iran's claim to have captured Chinese-made Silk worm missiles from Iraq in battle.

"The Iranians are absolutely not telling the truth when they say they have captured these missiles from Iraq," Saoudun Hammadi, president of Iraq's National Assembly, told a news conference.

Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Mohammad Besharati, told a news conference in Peking last week that Iran obtained its Silk worm missiles by capturing them from Iraq in 1986, and not by purchase from China.

China says it is neutral in the war and denies selling Iran the missiles.

Asked if Chinese officials had explained how Iran obtained the Silk worms, Mr. Hammadi said they assured him it was not by direct sale.

"The answers I have are satis-

factory and safety" and said it considered an attack on a member state an attack on the whole alliance.

Iran accuses Kuwait of directly aiding Iraq's war effort and has singled out its ships for attack.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad earlier reported to the conference on the firing last week of an Iranian Silkworm missile at southern Kuwait and Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti-flag vessels in the waterway.

Tehran's threats against Kuwait escalated after that country, the closest to the war zone, secured U.S. agreement to refuel 11 of its tankers with the American flag, entitling them to U.S. navy protection.

The GCC statement praised Iraq for its positive response to the U.N. peace bid.

Arab diplomats noted that the GCC states condemned Iran despite an intensive Iranian diplomatic drive launched Friday to seek support for its stand.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Hussein Sheikh Al Ismail, has visited Dubai, Oman and Qatar carrying messages from Iranian President Ali Khamenei to their leaders.

Another deputy foreign minister, Mohammad Ali Besharati, visited Dubai on his way home from China.

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Algeria to complement Iran-Iraq mediation efforts

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleh Ibrahim will go to Tehran on Monday to support efforts to reach a ceasefire in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, the official news agency APS said.

Mr. Ibrahim's visit coincides with current efforts by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to win a ceasefire as recommended by the U.N. Security Council in July.

Algeria has good relations with both Iran and Iraq and has made several attempts in the past to mediate in the seven-year-old conflict.

The government daily Al Moudjahid said the ruling Algerian National Liberation Front party last Monday made a "pressing appeal to the two parties to end bloodshed and destruction in favour of dialogue and negotiation to settle their disputes."

The Algerian minister's mission also follows an announcement by Libya that Colonel Muammar Qadhafi was also seeking an end to the Gulf war.

The Libyan news agency JANA said Saturday that Iran had given a "positive and encouraging" response to ideas offered by Col. Qadhafi to end the Gulf war.

JANA said that Col. Qadhafi had expressed his "viewpoint" to Iranian leaders via the Libyan Arab people's bureau, or embassy, in Tehran.

The agency did not elaborate on Col. Qadhafi's views.

Col. Qadhafi, JANA said, "received a positive and encouraging response from the Iranian leadership on the need for an end to the Iran-Iraq war."

The agency said that Col. Qadhafi "expressed pleasure at the positive response," adding that he had accepted an Iranian proposal for a dialogue between Iran and Libya towards resolving the Gulf conflict.

JANA said that Libya "will continue with its efforts to put an end to the destructive war between the two Muslim countries of Iraq and Iran."

Her Majesty attends 'A Salute to Jordan' in U.S.

By a Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Her Majesty Queen Noor was the guest of honour Friday night at the Jerash Festival Ball, "A Salute to Jordan," which took place in the Filene Centre of Wolf Trap Farm Park, a major U.S. centre for the performing arts. The ball, sponsored by the Wolf Trap Associates, was held under the honorary chairmanship of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. It was attended by more than a thousand personalities from Washington's government, diplomatic, business and social circles.

On the occasion, in recognition of her efforts in encouraging wider participation and exchange in the arts, Queen Noor was presented with the Wolf Trap Medal. The award was made by Mrs. Jovett Shouse, the founder



of Wolf Trap, who in her remarks paid tribute to Jordan's long interest in strengthening its cultural ties with America and to Queen Noor's active role in promoting international cultural understanding.

In her words of acceptance, the



Queen expressed appreciation to the Wolf Trap Associates for the impressive salute to Jordan and particularly to the Jerash Festival. Noting the significance of Jerash as a multi-cultural historical site that reflects "two millennia

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Zinchuk: Moscow is ready to consider all options for Gulf peace

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



Alexander Zinchuk

AMMAN — Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk on Sunday reiterated his country's complete support for the United Nations Security Council's July 20 resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Zinchuk, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, strongly denied reports suggesting that Moscow had a lukewarm attitude towards Resolution 598. "The reports are groundless. We have participated in the drafting of the resolution and we still support it," Mr. Zinchuk said. "Our stand has not changed and has been and will remain consistent on the issue."

Reports and analysis have suggested that the Soviet Union was reluctant to seek a second Security Council resolution to enforce the implementation of Resolution 598 and to impose an arms embargo on the party which refuses to comply with the ceasefire demand. The analysts based their

assessment on reports of a recent warning up of relations between Tehran and Moscow.

But Mr. Zinchuk disagreed with these assessments and stressed that Moscow was not "reluctant" to pursue a second resolution but was waiting for the results of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's current peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad.

"We are not reluctant, but we are simply giving a chance for Mr. Perez de Cuellar to finish his mission before taking a further step," Mr. Zinchuk said.

Asked if Moscow would support an arms embargo against the party which refuses to accept and honour Resolution 598, Mr. Zinchuk said: "If Mr. Perez de Cuellar fails (in his mission) we will consider all options."

Mr. Zinchuk's statements came on the eve of a scheduled visit by a Soviet official to Jordan to discuss the agenda of the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly and bilateral relations. Dr. Oleg Peresypkin.

(Continued on page 3)

'Israel and Iran planning arms-for-Jews exchange'

LONDON (Agencies) — The British Sunday newspaper the Observer reported that Israel and Iran held secret talks in Europe last month on arranging an exodus of Iranian Jews in return for Israeli military assistance.

In an early edition, the weekly quoted an unidentified source as saying 25,000 Jews could be leaving "an within the next six months."

The Observer reported that Israel sent two representatives from the ministries of defence and foreign affairs to meet a delegation led by Ahmad Khomeini, son of revolutionary Iranian patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The newspaper did not name where in Europe the reported

talks took place.

Israel played a major role in the U.S. arms-for-hostages scandal, acting as a middleman in the shipment of American weapons to Tehran.

The Israeli government has said it sent the arms at the request of the United States in a bid to win freedom for Americans kidnapped in Lebanon. It was denied involvement in the channelling of proceeds from the deal to anti-government rebels in Nicaragua.

Israel denied the Observer report.

"Our response is that there is nothing to this report. We deny it," foreign ministry spokesman Ehud Gol told Reuters.

France moves troops in Chad to north but rules out more

PARIS (R) — French Defence Minister Andre Giraud said in an interview published on Sunday France was moving its air defence force in Chad towards the north of the country.

Mr. Giraud ruled out sending any more troops to France's former colony to support President Hissene Habre in his conflict with neighbouring Libya over a border strip.

France has some 1,200 men, mainly around the capital N'djamena, providing air cover and logistical support for Mr. Habre's troops under "Operation Sparrowhawk."

"There is no question of sending a single extra soldier (to Chad)," Mr. Giraud told the weekly Journal du Dimanche.

"If we are redeploying Operation Sparrowhawk, it is only to move its centre of gravity toward the north. That's all. There is no question of new military operations or of sending more fighting

units."

Some leading French parliamentarians have called on the government to step up its involvement in response to clashes between Chad and Libya which culminated in France shooting down a Libyan fighter-bomber on Sept. 7.

On Friday, Chad and Libya agreed to a ceasefire in their conflict over the disputed Aouzou border strip which both countries claim to be an integral part of their territory.

Despite French advice to let international arbitration solve the dispute, Chad seized the border strip's capital Aouzou on Aug. 8 only to be driven out by Libya three weeks later.

Taking credit for Chad's acceptance of a ceasefire call, Mr. Giraud said: "We are listened to. Look at Chad's announcement it agreed to the ceasefire recommended by the OAU (Organisation of African Unity)."

Shevardnadze heads for U.S. for crucial talks

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze left Sunday for the United States, where he is to hold talks on disarmament and other issues with U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

Mr. Shevardnadze will also attend the 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, and he will make official visits to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

The Soviet foreign minister will meet in Washington with U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Tuesday, which will also mark the first day of Mr. Shevardnadze's three days of talks with Mr. Shultz.

During the meetings, U.S. and Soviet officials will try to work out details of a proposed agreement scrapping the two superpowers' medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

At the top of their agenda will be arms control, notably attempts to put the finishing touches on the seemingly attainable, but so far elusive, pact to eliminate intermediate nuclear force missiles.

In a commentary on the visit, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the Washington talks should bring to fruition many months of tense negotiations.

It urged the United States to destroy, rather than merely remove, all warheads from Pershing-1A missiles in West Germany.

Without this, it said, there could be no agreement on the scrapping of medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles worldwide, known as the "double zero option."

A top Soviet official has said the talks next week would be difficult because of U.S. intransigence.

Swiss company confirms Iran links after arrest

CHUR, Switzerland (AP) — A Swiss helicopter trade executive arrested in Italy on suspicion of illegal arms trafficking told his parent company this summer about secret attempts to arrange a missile shipment to Iran, a company official said Sunday.

Italian police arrested Walter Demuth in Turin last Tuesday on a U.S. warrant that they said could link him to the U.S.-Iran arms scandal, Turin police sources said.

Following his arrest, Demuth was suspended at Helitrade A.G., the company he founded and headed, said Juerg Riedi, a board member of Helitrade and its parent, Heliswiss.

Demuth had been on probation since a Swiss newspaper linked him to Iran arms dealings this summer, Mr. Riedi told the Associated Press by telephone from his home.

He said Heliswiss, Switzer-

land's leading helicopter services company, has some 30 years of business links with private and government customers in Iran.

In addition, he said Helitrade sold Iran three U.S.-made Bell helicopters with spare parts for use in government off-shore oil operations.

The Swiss tabloid Sonntagsblick reported last July that Demuth, former chief pilot at Heliswiss, had tried to arrange the sale of 1,250 TOW anti-tank missiles for \$7.5 million. But the deal never came off, the paper quoted him as saying.

Demuth told Heliswiss mana-

gers that he acted on his own and misused company documents in the dealings, Mr. Riedi said. Demuth described the affair as a one-time slip of judgment from which he emerged only "with a black eye," he said.

Heliswiss may soon fire Demuth and dissolve the wholly-owned subsidiary, Mr. Riedi added. Both firms are based in Belp, a Bern suburb.

An international arrest warrant issued on Aug. 20, 1986, by a New York judge investigating illegal arms deals charges Demuth with illegal trading in military materials and defrauding the American government, Turin police said.

Swiss police apparently did not arrest Demuth because the cited offences are not punishable in Switzerland, Josef Hermann, a spokesman of the federal prosecutor's office in Bern, said Sunday.

Italian parliament approves dispatch of Gulf force

ROME (R) — Italy's parliament has approved the government plan to send a naval force to the Gulf but its departure will be delayed until after the U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar ends his peace mission to Iran and Iraq.

The Chamber of Deputies backed the controversial mission on Saturday by 342 votes to 229 after the government won a vote of confidence on its decision in the Senate (upper house) last Wednesday.

Parliamentary approval cleared the way for the departure of the eight-ship flotilla of minesweepers, support ships and escorts.

But faced with threats of filibustering, the government agreed to delay the departure of the task force until Tuesday to assess progress made by Mr. Perez de Cuellar after his talks in Tehran and Baghdad.

Prime Minister Giovanni Goria's five-party government, formed in July, had run into stiff opposition from some of its own supporters over the move.

It was forced to ask both houses of parliament for an open confidence vote to avoid possible defeat in what would normally have been a secret ballot.

But Defence Minister Valerio Zanone made clear that only acceptance by both sides of a ceasefire would stop the Italian fleet leaving on Tuesday.

"The decision is not subject to further delay or appraisal because the situation which prompted it would change only if the (July 20) United Nations resolution were adopted," Mr. Zanone, winding up the debate for the government, said.

Ministers have stressed that the three frigates, three minesweepers and two support ships will be on a purely defensive mission to protect Italian merchant shipping in the Gulf. The ships are expected to take between 20 and 25 days to reach the region.

The cabinet abandoned its previous policy of waiting to see the outcome of U.N. efforts to bring about a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war after an Italian freighter was attacked in the Gulf 10 days ago. The grenade attack was blamed on Iran.

The opposition Communists refused to support the confidence motion, saying the government had shown itself "divided, confused and weak." The small Radical Party called the naval mission "a typical Italian solution — confused, botched-together and dangerous."

More worrying for the government were protests by Catholic groups who normally support Mr. Goria's Christian Democrat Party.

Demonstrators paraded outside parliament during the debate and there were protests in cities throughout the country.

U.S. doctors to operate in Mideast

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — A team of plastic surgeons have gathered to fly to Syria on a mission to treat people with birth defects and disfiguring wounds suffered in the civil war in Lebanon.

The 11-member volunteer team of surgeons and support staff plans to operate on about 50 patients in the Syrian capital of Damascus in the first of several trips.

Dr. Charles E. Horton, who is heading the team, spent two years visiting doctors and government officials in the Middle East to negotiate the trip.

"I have met the people and the patients, and I've been impressed with their sincerity and their kindness," Dr. Horton said in an interview.

"They have the same sorrows and aspirations as other people in the world have, and yet our

whole picture of the Middle East has been of bombs and terrorists and airplane missions and mines..." he said.

The two-week trip is the first by Physicians for Peace, a non-profit group founded to help the medically needy in foreign countries.

Israel, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and a Palestinian hospital on the West Bank of the Jordan River agreed to participate in the missions, the first in which Middle East countries have cooperated on a project that serves political enemies, Dr. Horton said.

Most of the patients will be needy Syrians and war victims taken to Syria from Lebanon, Dr. Horton said. Their problems include burn scar contractions, facial disfigurement and birth defects.

A second trip is scheduled in January to the Palestinian hospital

at Ramallah, in the West Bank occupied by Israel. The team plans to travel to Jordan in Egypt in September 1988 and Israel in December 1988. Different teams will participate each time, Dr. Horton said.

Most of the countries will pay hospitalisation and transportation costs for patients. Private donations will be used to pay the \$35,000 to \$40,000 cost of sending the medical team on each trip, Dr. Horton said.

He also envisions doctors from the Arab nations and Israel travelling to neighbouring Middle Eastern countries to perform surgery, but said each host country will decide which doctors to invite.

In addition to operating on patients, the American team will teach their medical techniques and arrange to bring doctors to the United States for further training, Dr. Horton said.

Lavi protesters clash with Israeli police

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thousands of Israeli Aircraft Industries workers lit bonfires, blocked traffic and threw bottles at police Sunday to protest the government's 2-week-old decision to drop the Lavi jet fighter project.

Border police used water cannons to disperse the protesters who came on 48 buses to rally outside the headquarters of the Histadrut labour federation, Israel Radio said. Some workers broke into fistfights with police.

Protest organiser Yakov Sheffi said the workers rallied to press demands for union support in the

face of expected mass layoffs at Israeli Aircraft Industries, manufacturer of the Lavi and the nation's largest employer. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said about 3,000 workers will lose their jobs.

The government voted 12-11 on Aug. 30 to scrap the largely U.S.-funded Lavi. The vote came after heavy pressure from U.S. officials who said the project was too expensive and would harm Israel's economic growth.

The decision to scrap the 7-year-old project sparked a series of sometimes violent demonstra-

tions by aircraft industry workers.

Last week, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger told Rabin U.S. officials had approved a package of economic measures designed to help Israel compensate for the cancellation of the Lavi.

The measures include an additional \$100 million from U.S. military aid that Israel can spend on military projects at home. Israel currently receives \$1.8 billion annually in U.S. military aid.

The Israeli parliament was scheduled to discuss the Lavi decision in a special session on Monday.

UAE starts campaign against meningitis

DUBAI (R) — Health authorities have launched a campaign to immunise some 375,000 schoolchildren in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) against a deadly outbreak of meningitis.

Health officials in the Gulf said the epidemic, which is also affecting other countries in the area, was spread by pilgrims who took part in the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in July.

They said the disease had apparently been brought to Saudi Arabia by pilgrims from North Africa.

The first UAE case was reported on Aug. 8, and six people have died out of 74 confirmed cases.

UAE authorities said on Sunday they expected to vaccinate all children between the ages of two and 12 during the coming week.

The reopening of schools after the summer holidays has been delayed to prevent the further spread of the disease.

Officials said meningitis had been reported throughout the Gulf region.

"The worst is over, but our vigil will continue. The vaccination campaign is part of the vigil," a UAE official said.

Ethiopia marks revolution anniversary

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — With a parade of military might from Africa's biggest army and with children chanting peace songs, Ethiopia on Sunday celebrated the 13th anniversary of the Marxist revolution that ended 44 years of feudal rule by Emperor Haile Selassie.

About 100,000 people, including President Mengistu Haile Mariam and five other African heads of state, watched two hours of pageantry in Revolution Square.

Thousands of marching schoolchildren waved flowers and flags, and 10,000 soldiers paraded ahead of lumbering trucks that towed three-stage rockets.

Security was heavy with soldiers on rooftops of all buildings adjacent to the huge square, which was decorated with flowers, a huge picture of Mengistu and a portrait of Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and Friedrich Engels.

Police with batons stood by as spectators crowded bleachers and watched from knolls overlooking the square.

In a 15-minute speech, Mengistu highlighted the achievements of the revolution and spoke of Ethiopia's transition last week from military rule to a civilian government.

"After 13 years that were characterised by numerous revolutionary events and achievements, the direct assumption and exercise of power by the people... has

now been established," he said.

The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, once a distant vision in the course of the revolution, has now been realised."

Mengistu last Wednesday presided over the inaugural session of the National Shengo, the Soviet-style civilian parliament. On Thursday, the one-chamber body elected Mengistu president and adopted a constitution establishing a civilian government to replace a ruling military council.

Mengistu and most leaders in the new government also held power in the previous provisional military administrative council, or Dergue — the clique of army officers who overthrew Haile Selassie.

The emperor was dethroned on Sept. 12, 1974, after seven months of civil unrest. The new military rulers established a Marxist government. Three years later, Ethiopia broke its military alliance with the United States and became the Soviet Union's major ally in Africa.

Haile Selassie died in mysterious circumstances 11 months after his overthrow and was buried at an undisclosed site.

Mengistu was one of the leaders of the revolution but did not become head of state until February 1977, after an internal power struggle in which dozens of Dergue members were executed.

This year's anniversary was observed on Sunday, the 13th, because this is a leap year,

Israel detains Hussein for six months

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has ordered leading Palestinian politician Faisal Hussein to be detained for six months without trial on charges of hostile activity against the state, a Defence Ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the detention on Saturday night. Mr. Hussein heads a political research unit in East Jerusalem called the Arab Studies Centre.

Mr. Hussein was released in July from three months detention without trial. Last month he was remanded in custody for eight days.

Mr. Hussein, 46, is regarded by Israel as a key figure in the Fatah commando movement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Friday Mr. Hussein said Israeli police had refused to allow a march through East Jerusalem to commemorate the massacre of Palestinians in 1982 by Falangist militiamen in two Lebanese refugee camps surrounded by Israeli troops.

"Any mobilisation in this area is explained by Israeli authorities as organised by the PLO or a PLO activity," he said.

Turkey seen as potential major player in moves to end Gulf war

By John Owen-Davies
Reuters

ANKARA — Turkey has emerged as a potential major player in moves to end the Iran-Iraq war because of its diplomatic and trade ties with both sides, diplomats say.

These ties, links with other regional states and membership of both the NATO Western alliance and the Organisation of Islamic Conference give Turkey an unique advantage in seeking peace.

Turkey, which borders Iran and Iraq, has sought to end the seven-year conflict with a softly-softly approach, including efforts to maintain a dialogue between Baghdad and Tehran.

"We think we can do something to end the war," an official Turkish source said. "Our historical (regional) ties must give us a special status."

Explaining Turkey's neutrality in the conflict, the source said: "Taking sides would detract from our flexibility."

A Western diplomat said Turkey "now had the potential to play a major role in any peace move. It has the added advantage of links with other states in the area as well as the West."

Diplomats said Turkey established early in the war that the only way to cope was to walk a diplomatic tightrope between the

two sides because of its interests in Iran and Iraq.

The fact that Turkey, a secular but mainly Muslim state with U.S. ties, has been able to maintain cordial relations with revolutionary, Muslim fundamentalist and anti-U.S. Iran shows the policy's effectiveness.

"It is a love-hate relationship (with Iran)," an official source said. "Even during the late shah's time there were difficulties. I think the Turkish government has been sober and cool, and enjoys the trust of the Iranian government."

NEWS ANALYSIS

"The Iraqis understand why we are keeping our neutrality," the source added.

Iran and Iraq are Turkey's major oil sources and represent a lucrative market for Turkish goods, especially if peace comes, while Baghdad's main oil export outlet is through two pipelines to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

Turkey, whose merchant ships have been attacked in Gulf waters, sees continuation of the war as an obstacle to trade.

Another motive for Turkey seeking an end to the war is it believes a further escalation could lead to infiltration in the region by the Soviet Union, which borders eastern Turkey. Ankara sees any threat to West-

ern security as its concern.

One scenario that has been discussed is Tehran being pushed into Soviet hands following U.S. retaliation against Iran for an Iranian attack on a Gulf Arab state.

The war has given Turkey some difficult moments. About 95 Iranian Revolutionary Guards were detained last month when they stayed into south eastern Turkey near the Iran-Iraq border. They were handed back to Iran with the minimum of fuss.

"Turkey probably took the view it was a mistake and that the Guards read their maps incorrectly in a remote mountain area with badly-defined borders," one diplomat said.

Diplomats say Turkey also demonstrated skill in handling war-related issues with a measured, low-key response to last month's clashes during the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, in which Saudi Arabia said over 400 people were killed.

Military analysts say the Guards' incident caused anxiety in the Turkish armed forces, as did recent Gulf war fighting in northern Iraq involving Kurds and Iranian and Iraqi troops.

Kurdish guerrillas have been waging a violent campaign in south east Turkey for autonomy for the country's estimated eight million Kurds since mid-1984.

al and reform through democratic means.

"The MTI is against violence wherever it comes from," he told the specially-created state security court, packed with about 60 lawyers defending him, court officials, journalists and security police.

Islamic party chief denounces Tunisian blasts

TUNIS (R) — The main defendant in a mass trial of Muslim fundamentalists, whose Islamic organisation is accused of bombing four hotels last month, denounced the attacks and said his group was against violence.

Rachid Ghannouchi, who, like the 90 other accused, faces a possible death sentence on

charges of endangering state security, told the court he felt sympathy for tourists wounded in the blasts.

Frequently shouting into a microphone during more than four hours of questioning, the 47-year-old former philosophy professor said his Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) sought Islamic reviv-

al and reform through democratic means.

"The MTI is against violence wherever it comes from," he told the specially-created state security court, packed with about 60 lawyers defending him, court officials, journalists and security police.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES	
PROGRAMME ONE		EXHIBITION		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)		GENERAL	
15:30 Koran		Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal' (Cliff Palace). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.		This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.		Amman governorate 891228	
15:50 Programme review		FILM		ARRIVALS		Jordan Television 77311/119	
15:55 Cartoons and children programmes		* An exhibition of plastic art by Mohammad Al Kwasbi at the Housing Bank Gallery (until Sept. 15).		ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)		Radio Jordan 77411/119	
16:35 Silver Spoons		FEATURE FILM		10:15 Agaba (RJ)		Ministry of Tourism 62311	
17:30 The Wonderful World of Magic		* "The Best of Times" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.		10:15 Cairo (RJ)		Hotel complaints 66412	
18:00 Arabic series		VIDEO		10:20 Larnaca (RJ)		Price complaints 66176	
18:30 Local cultural debate		* "La France vue par les chinois" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.		10:20 Cairo (RJ)		Telephone information 12	
19:10 Message from Oman		CULTURAL CENTRES		10:20 Damascus (RJ)		Jordan and Middle East calls 16	
19:20 Local programme		Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267		10:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)		Overseas calls 17	
19:50 Programme review		American Centre library 641520		10:30 Kuwait (RJ)		Repair service 11	
20:00 News in Arabic		British Council 6361478		10:30 Tunis (RJ)		NIGHT DUTY	
20:30 Arabic series		French Cultural Centre 637009		10:30 Baghdad (RJ)		AMMAN:	
21:00 Tourism in Jordan		Goethe Institute 641993		10:30 Beirut (RJ)		Dr. Mahmoud Allan 89466	
21:30 Arab Doctors		Soviet Cultural Centre 644203		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)		Dr. Khalid Abu Khamis 77068	
23:00 News Summary in Arabic		Spanish Cultural Centre 624049		10:30 Cairo (RJ)		Dr. Adel Dabbous 89364	
23:10 Close down		Turkish Cultural Centre 639777		10:30 Damascus (RJ)		Dr. Walid Sahawneh 77997	
PROGRAMME TWO		Y.W.C.A. 641793		10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)		First aid 630341	
18:00 Rue Coriol		Y.W.M.C.A. 637111		10:30 Beirut (RJ)		Blood Bank 778033	
18:30 "Chef d'oeuvres en peril les chateaux d'Ajoudjoud"		Univ. of Jordan Library 643555		10:30 Baghdad (RJ)		Civil Defence rescue 661111	
19:00 Local programme		MUSEUMS		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)		Police headquarters 622090-3	
19:10 Sport magazine (French)		"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.		10:30 Cairo (RJ)		Police rescue 192.621111.63777	
19:30 News in Hebrew		Public Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-3 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.		10:30 Damascus (RJ)		Traffic police 639141	
19:45 Beyond 2000		CHURCHES		10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)		Electric power 636381/4. 624891	
20:00 News in Arabic		St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.		10:30 Beirut (RJ)		Municipal water complaints 771258/6	
20:30 Mountain Men		Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 625383.		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)		Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)5330060	
21:00 News in English		Armenian Orthodox Church Ashraf. Tel. 771331.		10:30 Cairo (RJ)		TAXIS:	
21:30 Bird of Prey		St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashraf. Tel. 77151.		10:30 Damascus (RJ)		Khaled taxi 623775	
23:00 Love Boat		Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational). meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.		10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)		Jerusalem taxi 63862	
RADIO JORDAN 835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & party on 850 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19		Evangelical Lutheran Church, Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7:00 p.m. Rainbow Congregation, English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811295.		10:30 Beirut (RJ)		Heliport taxi 776100	
07:00 Light Music		CHURCHES		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)		Basman taxi 895433	
07:30 Newsweek		St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.		10:30 Cairo (RJ)		No 'ad' taxi 896624	
08:00 Morning Show		Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 625383.		10:30 Damascus (RJ)		Al Sallah taxi 773095	
10:00 News Summary		Armenian Orthodox Church Ashraf. Tel. 771331.		10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)		Syria taxi 646319	
10:05 Just a Minute		St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashraf. Tel. 77151.		10:30 Beirut (RJ)		Kerdi taxi 897572	
11:00 Follow the Wind		Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational). meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.		10:30 Baghdad (RJ)		IRBID:	
12:00 News Summary		Evangelical Lutheran Church, Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7:00 p.m. Rainbow Congregation, English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811295.		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)		Dr. Lawrence Bader 242338	
12:05 Pop Session		CHURCHES		10:30 Cairo (RJ)		Avda pharmacy 722557	
13:00 News Summary		St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.		10:30 Damascus (RJ)		Sharra's pharmacy 758285	
13:05 Pop Session Cont.		Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 625383.		10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)		ZARQA:	
14:00 News bulletin		Armenian Orthodox Church Ashraf. Tel. 771331.		10:30 Beirut (RJ)		Dr. Azmi Mune 991355	
14:30 Plan Map		St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashraf. Tel. 77151.		10:30 Baghdad (RJ)		Al Asma pharmacy (-)	
15:00 Contact Hour		Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational). meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)			
15:10 News Summary		Evangelical Lutheran Church, Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7:00 p.m. Rainbow Congregation, English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811295.		10:30 Cairo (RJ)			
16:05 Instruments		CHURCHES		10:30 Damascus (RJ)			
16:30 Old Favourites		St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.		10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)			
17:00 Now Music		Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 625383.		10:30 Beirut (RJ)			
18:00 Pop Session		Armenian Orthodox Church Ashraf. Tel. 771331.		10:30 Baghdad (RJ)			
18:05 News Summary		St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashraf. Tel. 77151.		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)			
18:30 Sports Roundup		Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational). meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.		10:30 Cairo (RJ)			
19:00 Music		Evangelical Lutheran Church, Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7:00 p.m. Rainbow Congregation, English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811295.		10:30 Damascus (RJ)			
19:30 News Desk		CHURCHES		10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)			
20:00 Date with a Star		St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.		10:30 Beirut (RJ)			
20:30 Evening Show		Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman. Tel. 625383.		10:30 Baghdad (RJ)			
21:00 News Summary		Armenian Orthodox Church Ashraf. Tel. 771331.		10:30 Bucharest (RJ)			

Organisation heads praise King's support

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary generals and director generals of four Amman-based Arab League organisations have paid tribute to the roles of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in supporting joint Arab action, and also expressed their thanks and appreciation for the Jordanian government's continuing support for joint Arab actions and organisations.

Their statement was made during a meeting, which began here on Sunday, intended to crystallise a common vision of the purpose of these organisations, and to draw up an integrated plan of action, in order to boost their effectiveness at the Arab level.

During Sunday's meeting, the participants also discussed the results of a meeting of the committee charged with ensuring coordination between the Arab League and the joint Arab action organisations, as well as the results of the 43rd session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, held recently in Tunis.

The four Arab organisations involved are: the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences, the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology, and the Arab Tourism Organisation.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia to sign wheat deal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Saudi Arabia are expected to sign a number of agreements on the sale of Saudi Arabian wheat to Jordan, according to an announcement here Sunday.

The announcement said that the agreements will be signed at the end of meetings by a joint Jordanian-Saudi Arabian committee which will open talks in Saudi Arabia Monday.

The talks will be conducted by a Jordanian team led by Mr. Abdullah Al-Hawamdeh, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

Last June, the Ministry of Agriculture said that it expected local production of cereals to reach only 136,000 tonnes this year, less than expected by ministry experts at the beginning of the harvest season. The Ministry of Agriculture under secretary said that Jordan expects to produce 100,000 tonnes of wheat this year, which will not be sufficient for local consumption.

Last month, the ministry announced the purchase of 81,000 tonnes of cereals from local farmers. The purchase was conducted through a number of ministry centres in the Kingdom.

The ministry bought the cereals at a higher price than the international market, with a view to encouraging farmers to increase their output and exert additional efforts. A tonne of wheat was purchased by the ministry for JD 144, according to Ministry of Agriculture sources.

Queen attends 'Salute to Jordan'

(Continued from page 1)

of almost continuous interaction" among peoples from East and West, she said.

"The Jerash Festival is both a revival of that city's ancient historical role as a meeting place of cultures — of creativity and understanding — between East and West, and an expression of what my husband, my country and my people aspire to leave to future generations. It reflects what we were, what we value today, and what we seek to be remembered by in the future."

Among the Jordanian party accompanying the Queen were His Royal Highness Prince Talal bin Mohammad, Mrs. Zaid Rifai, Ambassador to the U.S. Mohammad Kamal and his wife, and Ambassador to the U.N. Abdullah Salah and his wife. Other prominent guests included National Security Advisor Frank Carlucci and Mrs. Carlucci, Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Godwin and Mrs. Godwin and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Mrs. Murphy.

For a few hours Friday night, the Filene Centre at Wolf Trap Farm Park in the suburbs of Washington became a mini-replica of Jerash in its annual festival. The entire stage area was redesigned into a columned forum, and two huge wall murals of the Jerash Street of Columns and Petra's Treasury building served as a dramatic backdrop for the evening's festivities. An exhibition of traditional Jordanian costumes was of special interest and

Zinchuk: All options open

(Continued from page 1)

member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Higher Committee and president of the Diplomatic Studies Academy, is expected here Tuesday for a 24-hour official visit.

On Sunday, Ambassador Zinchuk, who has just returned from Moscow, called on Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nabih Al-Nimr. In the meeting, Mr. Zinchuk reiterated his country's support for convening a U.N.-sponsored international

U.N. chief arrives in Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Baath Party regional leadership discussed Mr. Perez de Cuellar's expected visit to Iraq and expressed Baghdad's readiness to hold positive and constructive talks with him.

"Iraq only deals with a clear stand for achieving lasting and comprehensive peace... and any procrastination, manoeuvring or partitioning (of the resolution) will not fulfil that aim," the agency quoted the leadership as saying.

Iraq has said it will abide by the Security Council resolution if Iran does. But so far the Iranians have refused to give an unequivocal response and Iraq accuses them of playing for time to muster support in the U.N. General Assembly.

"We won't permit any stalling by the Iranians," an Iraqi official told AP.

Trade deal with Sudan under way

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Sudan are currently involved in implementing a deal they signed in Amman last March, according to Ghazi Diyab, director general of the Trade Centres Corporation (TCC).

He said that the deal, facilitated through the TCC, provides for Sudan and Jordan to exchange goods worth \$20 million, shared equally.

The TCC has recently held meetings with Jordanian pharmaceutical firms and a local trading company, which resulted in an agreement to export Jordanian medicine to Sudan, in accordance with the provisions of the Sudanese-Jordanian deal. Mr. Diyab noted. He said Jordan hopes to sell Sudan \$4.34 million worth of pharmaceuticals in exchange for 4,000 tonnes of sesame.

Earlier Jordan shipped to Sudan 10,000 tonnes of cement worth \$416,000, in exchange for the importation of 2,600 tonnes of Sudanese products.

Under the terms of the deal, Jordan promised to purchase Sudanese sesame along with raw leather, white corn, mango juice concentrates, cotton, and spices. In return, Sudan will purchase Jordan's pharmaceuticals, construction materials, cement, clothes, electrical appliances, and household equipment.

The two sides agreed to hold meetings in Amman and Khartoum every four months in order to update the agreement.

Aqaba seminar postponed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on Aqaba's present and future, which was due to open in Aqaba on Sept. 17 under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, has now been postponed indefinitely, according to the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) which organised the seminar.

An ARA spokesman said that the seminar will be held sometime later on, and an announcement on its date will be made in due course.

ARA President Bassam Oqash said that the seminar would be attended by as many specialists as possible to discuss investments in the port city, and means of promoting its economic and touristic life.

Mr. Oqash said that the seminar was the brainchild of Prince Hassan during a trip to the city. The Crown Prince requested that the private sector, as well as the public sector, be represented at the conference, Mr. Oqash noted.

Mounted police to remain in Zarqa

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mounted police patrols in Zarqa will be a regular police practice, from now on, to help organise the flow of traffic in the city, according to specific instructions issued by Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al-Majali.

Lieutenant-General Majali said that the experiment in which mounted police were employed in the city proved to be extremely successful, and that the patrols will be maintained and increased in number.

At present, there are 30 mounted policemen in 15 patrols doing six-hour shifts on a daily basis Lt-Gen. Majali noted.

Mr. Zinchuk told the Jordan Times that Moscow had informed the Arab League team of the Soviet Union's "consistent stand" towards Resolution 598.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attends the Sunday closing of this session of the Petra School of Physics, in which he emphasised the importance of cooperation among Jordanian and foreign physicists (Petra photo).

Crown Prince urges emphasis on physics

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday attended the closing session of the Petra School of Physics meetings held at the University of Jordan.

Prince Hassan, commenting on two lectures from Britain and the European Community, underlined the need for Jordan to give even more attention to pure physics, which he said, is closely connected with science and technology. The Crown Prince said Jordan can embark on serious endeavours in this respect, now that the country has established a Higher Council on Science and Technology.

Prince Hassan urged Jordanian physicists to build close cooperation with each other, and with their colleagues in other parts of the world for the purpose of benefiting from their experience and expertise.

He also urged physicists to apply the subjects discussed in the meetings over the past eight days.

The last session's lectures were dedicated to subjects related to magnetism, as well as the benefits of physics for industrial, medical, and social fields.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al-Khatib last Sunday opened the meetings by underlining the importance of the role of the Higher Council on Science and Technology in promoting development projects. Dr. Khatib also called on Jordanian physicists to expand their contacts with their colleagues abroad and to enlist their help in promoting the work of the Petra School of Physics.

Iraq pledges to accept many Jordanian students

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iraqi government has promised to accept the largest possible number of Jordanian students at Iraqi universities this year, and will offer 250 of these students scholarships to study free, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al-Assad said here Sunday.

Speaking upon his return from Baghdad, the minister said that agreement on the acceptance of the students came during talks held with his Iraqi counterpart, Samir Moah Mohammad Abdul Wahhab, who welcomed cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in higher education.

Ministers to attend Arab talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Sunday decided to take part in the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Health Ministers Council due to open in Baghdad on Oct. 1.

It said that Jordan's delegation to the two-day meeting will be led by Dr. Zaid Hamzeh, the minister of health.

It was announced Sunday that the Jordanian government has received an invitation to take part in the 14th meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministers of Social Development Council.

The meeting, which will open in Tunis on Oct. 13, will last three days, and will discuss working papers dealing with means for improving inter-Arab cooperation in social affairs and development.

Arab Interior Ministers Council to discuss security concerns

AMMAN (Petra) — The concept of universal security and the relationship between security and development will be the main themes to be tackled by Arab countries' police chiefs at a conference to open in Amman Tuesday, Akram Nashaat, secretary-general of the Arab Interior Ministers Council said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that the conference, the 12th to be held by directors of police departments in the Arab World, will be attended by delegations from 18 Arab countries, as well as by a number of specialised Arab organisations.

The coming conference assumes a special importance being held in Jordan, a country that enjoys stability, security, and peace; and one with a long and vast experience in security affairs.

Dr. Nashaat said in his statement. The conference, he noted, will discuss a number of subjects closely related to security in the Arab World, and it is hoped that various Arab security departments will benefit from the deliberations and promote their work in combating crime and develop the role of the Arab police systems.

The delegations will look into means of implementing recommendations passed by earlier meetings and by the Arab interior ministers during 1987, Dr. Nashaat said. He said that participants will be discussing implementation of decisions made by directors of traffic, heads of criminal investigation departments, and heads of agencies for combating drugs and narcotics. Subjects which will be on the agenda of the coming Interpol meeting in France in November will also be taken up by the Amman conference, Dr. Nashaat said.

In reply to a question about pooling Arab countries efforts in combating drug trafficking across common borders, Dr. Nashaat said that this has been the prime

Millions worth of claims to be registered against company

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 350 individuals and commercial establishments are expected to register claims worth nearly JD 20 million against the Jordan Finance Company Ltd. by the end of the legal period determined by the court for registration of claims.

The money-changing company was declared bankrupt by the Court of First Instance on July 27. The court appointed a judge and three lawyers as bankruptcy representatives to register and verify the claims on the company, and to handle other bankruptcy proceedings. Auditors Saba and Co. had already carried out the inventory on the company's assets.

The demand from the court to declare the company bankrupt came from 59 claimants out of the estimated 350, their lawyer, Yacoub Far, told the Jordan Times. He said that nine of the claimants are filing a lawsuit against the Central Bank of Jordan reportedly for its alleged "lack of firmness" vis-a-vis illegal dealings by the money-changer, whose operations are, in theory, controlled by the Central Bank.

Last year, the firm, owned by Mr. Saliba Rizk and his brother and partner Rizk Rizk, flourished after failing to honour financial commitments to a number of its customers who deposited money with them. Several Jordanian banks took legal action against the company's assets, mostly lands and other real estate mortgaged for the banks.

Following his failure to repay his customers, Mr. Saliba Rizk apparently took his own life on May 8 last year. Mr. Rizk Rizk was then sued by several claimants and has been serving a

prison sentence for nearly a year. Only few days following the apparent suicide, the Central Bank issued a statement in which it warned citizens from depositing money with money-changing companies.

The Central Bank said that, "Some licensed money-changers are still violating regulations and laws by receiving deposits from citizens as current accounts or cash deposits in return for agreed upon interest. The Central Bank repeats its warning that accepting deposits in any form, dealings in gold markets and other valuable metals by money changers or others is illegal because it entails great dangers and huge losses for citizens."

The July 27 court order, which can be appealed, considered April 22, 1986 as the date when the Rizk company stopped honouring its financial commitments.

Any legal changes or financial transaction taken after that date (April 22) could be legally invalidated. "This action (stopping payments) revealed a collapsed financial position and the company's inability to pay its debts," said the court order, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. The debts in question include bounced cheques, deposits, bank debts, due fees, and salaries.

The appointed lawyers carrying out the bankruptcy proceedings are Salim Zoubi, George Nuzha, and Sami Habibi. Mr. Zoubi told the Jordan Times that, according to the law, claimants in Jordan had 15 days, between Sept. 6 and 20, to register their claims with the bankruptcy representatives, and that claimants not residing in Jordan had 60 days to register for a settlement of their claims. He said that the duty of the bankruptcy team included collecting money that other individuals and parties owed the company.

Mr. Zoubi said that, "There is a possibility that some lawsuits may be filed against financial transactions by the company after April 22, 1986, the date declared by the court as when the company stopped honouring commitments." At the end of the bankruptcy procedures, and depending on the company's assets as opposed to the claims, claimants would be proportionately paid. The process could last a year.

However, informed sources told the Jordan Times that Attorney General Walid Al-Haj Hassan may decide to appeal the July 27 court order on declaring the company as legally bankrupt.

Lands and houses owned by the Rizk family, and mortgaged to local banks or individuals, have been put up for sale through public auctions. Mr. Rizk Rizk's house near the Fifth Circle is also open for bidders. The house is estimated to have cost JD 500,000.

The Rizk brothers' financial troubles came about because of their inability to pay extremely high interest rates they had promised to pay on deposits. They reportedly also invested in a London financial institution, in which they incurred huge losses. Investing in the Lebanese pound, whose value was continuously on the decline, also contributed to the company's problems.

Jordanian and Soviet universities sign cultural exchange programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the University of Tashkent in the Soviet Union on Sunday signed an executive programme to implement their bilateral cultural agreement signed earlier this year.

The programme, signed by University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al-Majali and Dr. Nicolai Sergel, president of Tashkent University, aims at further bolstering cooperation between the two institutions in cultural

fields, according to a statement issued after the signing ceremony at the University of Jordan.

The programme provides for an exchange of visits by staff members of the two universities, to give lectures on Arabic language and literature, teaching Arabic to foreigners, the history of the Middle East, and mathematics.

The programme also provides for the two universities to dispatch delegations to attend seminars and conferences organised by each.

The University of Jordan pledges to facilitate the enrolment of students from Tashkent University at the University of Jordan to study Arabic, and agreed to exchange publications on Arabic and Islamic with Tashkent University. In return, Tashkent University will facilitate the work of Jordanian researchers in Islamic and Oriental studies.

On the recent interior ministers' decision on the movement of Arab citizens freely within the Arab World, he said that the general secretariat of the Interior Ministers Council is concerned with implementing such resolutions. But, he added, these should now be coupled with firm measures to prevent any illegal exploitation of free movement of citizens, to avoid any damaging effects on the security of any Arab country.

In reply to a question about the Arab interior ministers' stand with regard to world terrorism, Dr. Nashaat said that Arab countries fell victim to terrorism like many other world nations; and for this reason, the ministers gave this topic due consideration and entrusted the council's general secretariat to prepare a detailed

study on means of combating terrorism and safeguarding security in the Arab countries. In addition, he said, the Arab ministers of interior have endorsed measures, which, among other things, call for the formation of a standing committee to counter organised crimes and terrorism.

The committee held a meeting last April to review the question of terrorism in the light of a study prepared in this concern, he said. Dr. Nashaat said that terrorism constitutes a grave danger to all nations, but it seems to be increasingly conspicuous in the Arab region, largely due to the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's adoption of terrorist measures as a basic principle in dealing with the Arab World. Israel has been trying to link terrorism with the Arabs, and is being backed in this endeavour by various information media services in the West which are under its control, Dr. Nashaat noted.

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True-to-form alliance

THERE is little surprise in the Observer's disclosures yesterday that Israeli and Iranian delegations held secret talks somewhere in Europe last month to negotiate a deal involving an exchange of Iranian Jews for Israeli military assistance and arms. Iran had already revealed to the suspecting world the sinister role that Israel and its agents had played in that scandal. The testimonies of Oliver North and his superior John Poindexter about Israel's pivotal role in arranging a dubious deal between the U.S. and Iran are still vivid in our minds, and in the minds of those concerned. There was no doubt that Israel was acting all along in the Iran-contra affair, from its genesis till its demise, for its own selfish interests and objectives. Israel wanted and sought to perpetuate the Gulf war and exacerbate the situation in the Gulf in order to have an opportunity to put to dislodge use an old-established axiom in Machiavellian diplomacy which asserts that "my enemy's enemy is my friend" by entering into an unholy alliance with Khomeini regime.

Israel, in fact, had already established recognised credentials as the principal outcast in the community of states which deals with pariah countries and regimes. When the whole world, for example, had acted in concert and unanimity to strangle South Africa and its apartheid policies, it was Israel which continued to feed the arteries of that racist regime and maintained its supply networks with it on all fronts—especially in nuclear weapons. It is, therefore, no surprise that Israel is once again upholding its image as the rescuer of a pariah state like Iran. It is truly demeaning to Iran to have none other than the son of its leader Ayatollah Khomeini engage the Israelis in such negotiations. Its image in the Islamic world will certainly be marred by this.

True to form, Israel acts in such circumstances and capacities to cause results that further exacerbate peace and stability in the world. As in the case of South Africa, which has resulted in the acceleration of Israel's nuclear weapons development which has, thus, threatened and undermined, even more, peace and stability in our region and in the world at large. The latest Israeli contacts with Iran to accelerate Iranian Jewish emigration from Iran to Israel can only add fuel to the flames of tension and instability in the Middle East. It does not take much imagination to realise that for every new Jewish immigrant, an Arab Palestinian must give way and ultimately leave his home and homeland and relinquish his birth rights. This latest Israeli effort to enter a barrier deal with Iran comes also in the wake of their attempts to intimidate even the Soviet Union to concede the emigration of Soviet Jews in return for a role in the politics of the Middle East, and a seat in the projected international peace conference on the region. The moral of these events and the continuous Israeli exploitations of one international crisis after another must at least dawn on the Arab World by now.

There is no excuse whatsoever for Arab disunity and lack of unanimity over the issue of the Gulf war, and this latest episode confirming Israeli-Iranian Machiavellian deals, should serve as a catalyst to consolidate Arab support for Iraq in its quest for an honourable, negotiated settlement. In these critical moments when the U.N. secretary-general is in the midst of his peace mission to the Gulf, the Arab countries must stand tall and united on the side of Iraq. This is the least that one can expect from them.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: More death in the Gulf

IN keeping with the series of crimes it has been committing the Iranian regime Saturday shelled Iraqi cities with long range artillery causing the death and injury of many innocent people mostly women and children. The latest crime came as U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar started his peace mission as instructed by the U.N. Security Council which issued Resolution 598 to end the Gulf war. The timing of the latest crime is a clear sign by the Iranians that they are determined to abort De Cuellar's mission and pursue fighting and bloodshed. The crime committed by the Iranians is one more aspect of Tehran's organised terrorism that has been practised in the Gulf and other parts of the world. The crime is part of an effort to cover up for Iran's losses and defeats in the battlefields, but this cowardly action can by no means regain credibility or respect for the regime in Tehran. It should be remembered that the assassination of innocent civilians does not only constitute a violation of international laws but rather a criminal attempt to spread terrorism throughout the whole Gulf region. For this reason, all peace loving nations and all those concerned about the stability and security of the Gulf should take speedy action in the face of Iran's aggression and adopt measures that can deter the regime in Tehran from committing further crimes.

Al Dustour: Another Iranian aggression

AS the U.N. secretary general continues his peace mission in the Gulf region and during his meetings with Iranian leaders in Tehran, residential areas in Iraqi cities were shelled by Iranian artillery. The open aggression on the civilian population is a clear indication of the real intentions of the Iranian rulers who continue to reject U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an end to the war. This escalation of shelling was of course a violation of the unofficial ceasefire which both sides in the war have pledged to observe during Javier Perez de Cuellar's visit to the region. There is no doubt that the shelling of the civilian areas speaks louder than any words that might be said in Tehran to De Cuellar in response to calls for an implementation of the council resolution. De Cuellar wanted to test the Iranians' real intention and so he decided to go to Tehran and also asked that a truce be observed during his visit. The Iranians showed beyond doubt that they have no respect for any deal or any official and resorted to an escalation of war activity during De Cuellar's visit regardless of the consequences.

Sawt Al Shaab: An end to camps war?

REPORTS about an agreement on ending camps war in Lebanon are a welcome event and calls for optimism. An agreement between Amal forces and the Palestinians would end the sufferings of many innocent people and many tragedies. If the agreement ends the siege around the refugee camps it will also pave the way for reconstruction and a reconciliation among the warring factions that would lead to a permanent peace in Lebanon. All warring groups and political parties should focus their attention on the Israeli threat in the south and should be ready for any possible Israeli aggression which observers say is imminent. A national reconciliation in Lebanon would end long years of sufferings in that embattled country and help re-unify Arab ranks. Perhaps a peace in Lebanon would help the Arabs prepare more seriously for convening an international Middle East peace conference. Jordan which strives to achieve peace is delighted at the news of a possible agreement to end the camps war. Such a move in Jordan's view is part of the overall peace that should prevail in the region.

Regional conference best forum for ending Gulf war

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar may come back from his mission of peace to the warring countries in the Gulf either empty handed, half handed or full handed. The world is in suspense awaiting the outcome of his visit to Tehran and Baghdad and the U.N. Security Council is viewing his trip as the watershed which will determine the future course of events in the Gulf region. Yet, I respectfully submit, the whole exercise conducted by the U.N. Security Council through Mr. De Cuellar, will prove to be nothing more than a stop-gap in the bloodletting in the Gulf unless coupled with a more pragmatic approach to the conflict. After seven years of war with untold killing, suffering and agonies on both sides of the armed and political conflict in the Gulf over and above the geopolitical considerations and the strategic stakes emanating from the conflict, it would be sheer naivete to expect U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 by itself to serve as the basis for a negotiated settlement between Iran and Iraq. Much more is needed to cope with the mushrooming issues that sprung from the Gulf conflict including those affecting the strategic concerns of the superpowers. There is no denying that the superpowers in particular are involved in the conflict up to their ears already and any negotiated settlement between Iran and Iraq which does not address the broader geopolitical considerations touching the strategic interests of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and their surrogate allies will be tantamount to an exercise in relative futility. The issues directly affecting the bilateral relations between Iran and Iraq are, to be sure, formidable standing on their own and it will not be easy to surmount them by strictly legal and political frameworks articulated and adopted by the U.N. through its various organs including the Security Council which is the main organ of the U.N. charged with the task of resolving threats to international peace in an enforceable manner.

There is no doubt in mind that the nature of the Gulf conflict now requires the convening of a regional conference under the aegis of

the U.N. Security Council with the participation of the immediate parties to the conflict plus the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Any such conference must envisage the involvement of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries as parties directly concerned and affected by any negotiated settlement between the warring countries, Iran and Iraq. The presence of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council in any such regional conference is a *sine qua non*. Otherwise, the geopolitical considerations would be left to simmer only to surface once again in the course of the coming years.

To realise this objective of holding a regional conference, it is obvious that the U.N. Security Council must reconvene again in the wake of the U.N. secretary general's trip to the Gulf region with the view to adopt a follow-up resolution embodying the principle of convening such a conference under the umbrella of the U.N. It would not be easy to solicit and secure the consent of all the immediate parties to the conflict to the idea of the regional conference. But a determined effort must be made in that direction if the international community is truly desirous of preventing the Gulf conflict in its broader dimensions from brewing for the next generation. It is quite probable that the permanent members of the Security Council would welcome an opportunity to involve themselves even more in the mechanics of any future negotiated settlement. As for the warring countries Iran and Iraq, on whose consent depends the very idea of the conference, it is also probable that they may accept an invitation by the Security Council to participate in any such conference. Both parties stand to gain more from such a forum. In addition to having an opportunity to air out their respective views and aspirations in a forum more conducive for a negotiated settlement, both countries will realise through such a forum the iron-clad assurances for the future that they obviously need.

The drafting of an agenda for any such regional conference

acceptable to Iran and Iraq would obviously be a painstaking exercise. Yet it is possible to reconcile the perspectives and objectives of the two countries in this context by drawing up a rather lengthy agenda encompassing the interests and concerns of the two governments. In any case this hurdle of drafting an acceptable yet operational agenda can be surmounted should the community of countries succeed in convincing the two principal countries in the conflict to attend any such regional conference.

Meanwhile the anxious world can do nothing but sit tight and wait for the events to unfold. The fact that Tehran has accepted, as revealed by the U.N. secretary general, "the concept of ceasefire" in the Gulf could develop into a cause for guarded optimism. Even the extension of an invitation to him to visit the region is in itself a signal that Tehran could be on the verge of officially accepting the ceasefire resolution. The sticking point is still the demand by the Iranian regime to name Iraq as the principal aggressor in the seven year-old war. This may be just a tactical request by Iran to obtain a face-saving formula. There are indications that Iranian officials may not insist on this point in the final analysis. Surely the Iranians officially know that even the remnants of support that they are still enjoying are fast eroding with the recent shift in Libya's stance on the war serving as the latest example of such erosion. They also realise that their seven-year old war is unwinnable. And clearly they cannot stomach a direct confrontation with Washington, as evidenced by their reluctance thus far to strike a blow against the re-flagged Kuwaiti oil tankers. All their attempt to ignite a Shiite uprising against the government of Iraq have also come to naught. Against the backdrop of all these developments, and circumstances, it appears to me that time is now propitious to wage a genuine peace efforts in the Gulf on the basis of a regional conference rather than to rest the process of peace in the Gulf on mere U.N. resolutions albeit some of them can serve as co-basis for any future negotiated settlement.

Israeli military attache in U.S. invokes diplomatic immunity to skirt lawsuit

American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Press release

IN a decision received on Aug. 31, United States district Judge Norma Johnson dismissed a civil complaint for damages brought against Israeli military attache to the U.S. Amos Yaron by three survivors of the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

In dismissing the case, the court ruled that Yaron's "diplomatic immunity is intact and deserving of full recognition." Judge Johnson left open the question of Yaron's involvement in war crimes and the effect of such involvement on his right to diplomatic immunity by ruling that such an argument was appropriate to a criminal tribunal and not to a civil action.

The lawsuit against Amos Yaron was filed on May 4, 1987 by attorneys Linda Huber and Professor Francis Boyle on behalf of Fatimeh Ali Aidi, Zeineb Sa'ad, and Samia Khatib, all of whom survived the 1982 massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut. The complaint sought damages for "the wrongful torture and murder" of the plaintiffs' relatives from Amos Yaron, who had been

the Israeli officer in charge of the camps during the massacres. Yaron was stripped of his military field command in 1983 as a result of Israeli Kahan commission finding that he was responsible for the massacres. Three years later, in 1986, the Israeli government promoted Yaron to Major General and appointed him military attache to Washington.

Upon learning of the dismissal, Ahdeed Jahara, president of ADC said, "we are disappointed that the court cloaked Yaron's involvement in crimes against humanity with the veil of diplomatic immunity despite the substantial jurisprudence to the contrary. ADC intends to pursue whatever channels are available — political, legal and informational — to raise this gross affront to the American people. Lawyers for the plaintiffs are reviewing the opinion to determine the feasibility of an appeal. Yaron could not enjoy this immunity but for the acceptance of his appointment by our Departments of Defence and State. This issue raises important questions of a principled and consistent American policy."

ETA rejects dialogue with Madrid without concessions

By Francois Raitberger

Reuter

VITORIA, Spain — Separatist guerrillas have dashed hopes that secret talks with the Spanish government made progress in solving the Basque dilemma.

The socialist government admitted for the first time last month that it had made contact with members of the ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) guerrilla movement.

But it set a strict limit. "Dialogue so that terrorists lay down arms, yes. But they can give up any hope for political talks," government spokesman Javier Solana said.

ETA's uncompromising public response was: No ceasefire until our demands are met.

"ETA reaffirms its commitment to struggle... Leading the process of national and social liberation until the achievement of our strategic objectives, an independent, socialist and unified Basque country," it said in characteristic revolutionary jargon.

The guerrillas' statement showed no change on their stand since they rejected an autonomy statute granted to the Basque region eight years ago and decided to carry on with the struggle for self-determination, started under dictator Francisco Franco who died in 1975.

The Madrid government says police will sooner or later crush ETA, and it is prepared only to negotiate their surrender.

"ETA is a police problem. It no longer is a political problem," the chief government representative in the Basque country, Julien Elgorriaga, told Reuters.

He said ETA was divided between young hardliners and older leaders who realised their cause was lost. Contacts were made with the latter to try to strengthen their position in the group.

Spanish police acting on intelligence improved by French cooperation have detained some of ETA's most wanted guerrillas in Madrid, Barcelona and San Sebastian. But they could not prevent a flare-up of attacks in the Basque region this summer.

The group has found its bases over the border to be increasingly unsafe. France deported 86 suspected guerrillas to Spain in 14 months.

But Basque nationalists said

ETA, heir to centuries of Basque struggle against central governments, did not feel defeated and was not prepared to end a 19-year-old war without substantial concessions.

They believed only a political solution could eradicate violence.

"ETA is a social phenomenon. You cannot put an end to it without addressing its causes, it would reappear under another name," said Jon Idigoras, a leader of the Herri Batasuna Party regarded as ETA's political arm.

"ETA will not go away until Basques have sovereign institutions with full powers of decision," he said.

Jose Antonio Ardanza, the moderate nationalist president of the Basque autonomous government, said ETA looked prepared to sharply increase bloodshed in a conflict which has already cost hundreds of lives.

He said ETA's bombing of a Barcelona supermarket in which 21 shoppers died last June marked a deliberate escalation from its attacks on the military and security forces in a bid to force talks.

"The democratic state could stand attacks on the military. But Barcelona was too much. Society is telling the government: Listen, solve that problem once and for all, one way or another," Ardanza said.

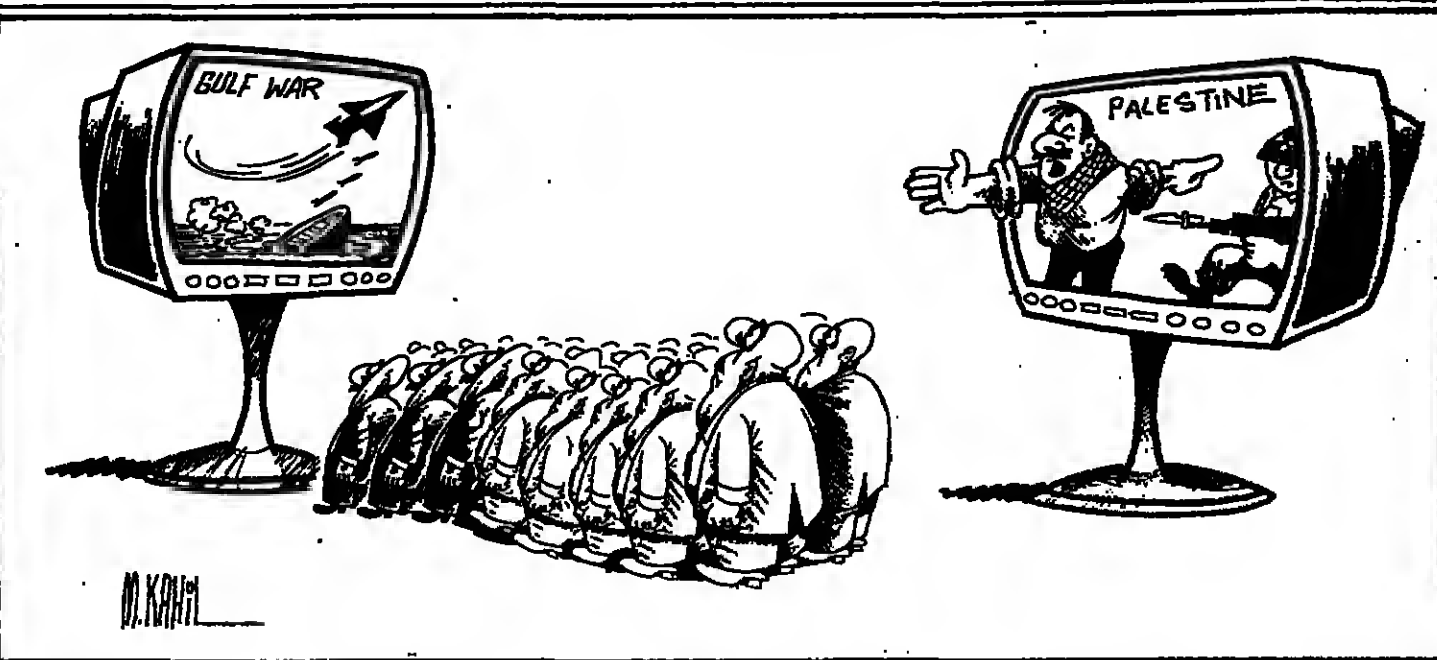
He believed the government had realised only dialogue could do away with ETA, and the disclosure that talks had taken place might be a first step to prepare public opinion to concessions.

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Muslim fundamentalists run their own law in Egyptian city

By Kate Dourian

Reuter

EL MINYA, Egypt — Muslim fundamentalists who demand an Islamic state in Egypt are taking the law into their own hands and shaping society in this southern Nile-side city.

In a garbage-strewn district of unpaved roads and open sewers in El Minya, 150 miles south of Cairo, Ali Abdul Rahman is known as the prince and has created a fiefdom where his loyalists dispense their brand of Islamic justice.

Two weeks ago, radicals seeking to enforce an Islamic ban on alcohol attacked a truck loaded with beer in El Minya and destroyed its contents.

Security police moved in on Aug. 28. They fired tear gas and smoke bombs at the Al Rahman mosque during midday prayers and arrested 40 members of the fundamentalist group.

"The government does not apply sharia (Islamic law) as a law of the state so it is our duty as Muslims... to ensure that Islamic laws are respected," said Abdul Rahman in an interview given only after he donned a head scarf.

He said his group's action was justified because police were lax in enforcing an existing ban on alcohol in El Minya.

"Our religion bans alcohol and yet the government produces alcohol and promotes its use," he said. "A true Muslim has no choice but to take positive action and destroy this evil. This of course puts him into confrontation with the law."

Abdul Rahman admitted that in a campaign against corruption, his vigilantes had collected and destroyed pornographic video tapes, disciplined unchaperoned young men and women and flogged drunks loitering in the street.

"We have no choice as Muslims but to confront these phenomena and protect our religion," the bearded Abdul Rahman said. "What we really want is a Muslim state 100 per cent."

Abdul Rahman, who declined to give his age, was one of hundreds arrested after Muslim zealots killed President Anwar Sadat in 1981. He spent three

years in a Cairo prison.

On Friday, security police carrying sticks and tear gas patrolled the outer perimeter of the district, but kept out of the southern part of the city known as the "Islamic opening."

A plainclothes policeman, his bicycle wobbling over dusty lanes and pebbles, was chased away when he approached three journalists and asked them to leave as about 500 men converged for noonday prayers.

"They are under our protection. Go away," a young man told him as residents in nearby tenements peered out through shutters at the foreign visitors.

Egyptian interior ministry spokesmen were not available for comment on the situation in El Minya when contacted by Reuters on Saturday.

In addition to battling corruption, Abdul Rahman and Islamic societies — a loose-knit offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood — collect donations for new mos-

ques, hospitals and shops.

"We are not funded by Iran as some say. We merely take from the rich and give to the poor," Abdul Rahman said of projects sponsored by the societies.

The Muslim Brotherhood recently bypassed a ban on its activities and won seats in parliament in an alliance with two opposition groups.

But the Brotherhood has repeatedly condemned methods used by the Islamic societies in seeking a supposedly common goal — sharia in Egypt.

In El Minya, bearded zealots roam the streets, meeting out discipline and preaching compliance with Islam.

Friction with Christians who live side-by-side with Muslims in the teeming slum area has been inevitable. They are a significant part of El Minya's estimated 150,000 population.

The opposition Al Ahali newspaper, in a full page article on El Minya this week, said that a

Christian youth had been stabbed to death after zealots accused him of insulting Islam.

Asked about the incident, an El Minya resident said in a muted voice that he was told the young man had tampered with the veil of a Muslim woman.

Abdul Rahman referred to the death of a Christian whom he said had struck a "brother" with a metal pipe. He was punished in kind by members of the societies and died later in hospital.

"It is always tense here on Fridays," said the unsmiling Christian owner of the "Happiness" photo studio beside the Al Rahman mosque.

Abdul Rahman, who invited two reporters to convert to Islam, said Christians would not be harmed unless they insulted the Muslim religion.

He said that if the government did not move to apply sharia, then his group would resort to Jihad (holy war).

"It is our right," Abdul Rahman said.

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'Ayoun Mousa excavations yield best preserved mosaic in Jordan

Text and Photos
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

TWO more Byzantine churches with mosaic floors have been discovered and excavated in the 'Ayoun Mousa region near Mount Nebo by a Jordanian Department of Antiquities team, headed by Father Michele Piccirillo of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute at Mount Nebo, bringing to light new decorative motifs and Byzantine inscriptions in Greek and Syro-Palestinian, and one of the best preserved mosaic tapestries in the country.

The 'Ayoun Mousa ("springs of Moses") are in the lush valley immediately north-east and below Mt. Nebo was visited and partly surveyed by various archaeologists earlier this century, including Father Saller and Baggett of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem to 1935, during their excavations at Mt. Nebo.

Among the antiquities in the 'Ayoun Mousa region are dolmens and standing members from the Early Bronze Age, an Iron Age fortress from the 8th-7th centuries BC, and a Roman camp along the ancient road which ran just to the north of 'Ayoun Mousa, and which linked the Jordan Valley town of Livia (at the foot of Mt. Nebo) with the highland town of Esbus (modern Hisban). The road was used by ancient pilgrims on their way to the Mt. Nebo monastery.

One of the best known early pilgrims was the Roman poet Egeria, who visited Mt. Nebo in the late 4th century AD and left a valuable written account of her visit. She mentioned, passing by "a place with a tiny church under a mountain — not Nebo, but another one not very far from Nebo but further in. A great many monks lived there, truly holy men of the kind known here as ascetics."

The structures which the hermit monks used are still to be seen today along the south face of the wadi flowing out from the main springs at 'Ayoun Mousa. They are several large caves and rooms carved out of the rock, with a fine view towards the Jordan Valley, Jerusalem and the north-west. Some of the rooms built in front of the chambers have collapsed, but the overall hermitage is still clearly visible.

Despite the richness of the area, none of the structures that were identified in the region had

ever been excavated, until the Department of Antiquities provided staff, workers, equipment and funding which have permitted three seasons of excavations to take place from 1984-87, under the direction of Father Piccirillo. He is working with the department to produce a corpus of all mosaics in Jordan, and in an interview with the Jordan Times he emphasised that the Department of Antiquities and its director, Dr. Adnan Hadidi, have been particularly generous in providing the needed human and financial resources to undertake such a major task. Another special aspect of this year's excavations was a visit to the site by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The two churches excavated in the area so far both date from the first half of the 6th Century AD. The first was part of a small monastery which has been called the Monastery of Kaianos, after the name of a benefactor mentioned in one of the inscriptions in the church's mosaic floor. There were two levels of mosaics floors, representing the two main periods of the church's use.

The earliest floor, dated to the time of the Bishop Cyrus of Madaba, in the early 6th Century AD, had four Greek inscriptions and one in the Syro-Palestinian or Syro-Palestinian language used by the indigenous population (the same language used to mark Christian tombstones at the settlement of Khirbet es-Sanra, north-east of Zera). Along with the names of the benefactors, the mosaic inscriptions also mention Robebos, who was then abbot of the monastery at Mt. Nebo, to which the 'Ayoun Mousa monks were closely linked.

For reasons unknown to us today, the church's original mosaic floor went out of use and was covered with dirt, and a new floor was put down in the second half of the 6th Century AD. It includes six Greek inscriptions giving names of clergy and benefactors, but its main motif is the portrait of a half-nude Arab soldier, a member of the auxiliary contingents of the Byzantine Empire. He carries a large sword and bow and arrows, and leads a camel.

The latest church mosaic discovered this year is less rich in inscriptions, but is one of the best preserved mosaic tapestries in the country. The church is located on a small ledge overlooking the wadi to its south, accessible on a dirt track at a point some 500

metres beyond the springs.

It measures 23 x 12 metres, and has a typical plan of three naves. It has been called the Church of Deacon Thomas, who is mentioned in an inscription. The overall themes and quality of the mosaic tapestry are to be compared with the fine mosaic at Mukhayyat (just south of Mt. Nebo, at the site of the ancient town of Nebo).

Father Piccirillo dates the mosaic, on stylistic grounds, to the first half of the 6th Century AD, though the inscriptions do not provide a firm date for the building of the church.

The altar area is well preserved, with the bottom segments of the four stone support columns of the altar still embedded in the mosaic. Father Piccirillo notes that the legs of the altar were implanted into and broke through the mosaic floor, indicating that the earlier altar used in the area up to the 5th Century AD were probably made of wood, and rested on the mosaic without damaging them. When stone or marble altars were introduced after the 5th Century, they needed stronger stone columns to support them, such as the ones at this site.

Directly beneath the altar is a portrait of a lamb, on top of which the excavators found the stoe relicary box, though emptied of the holy relics it once contained. At the bottom of the altar area are a lion and a bull facing one another, each in front of a fruit-laden tree.

The central nave tapestry is composed of eight rows of human and animal figures in typical scenes of hunting, vintage and pastoral life, each within a vine medallion. As you enter the church from the west door and view the mosaic towards the altar at the east end, the following scenes are depicted: Two spotted panthers flanking a large pedestal bowl, from which emerges a vine which forms the medallions surrounding each figure in the tapestry; the figure of a man labelled Stephanos, who uses a long spear to hunt a lion, while a gazelle escapes from behind him; the next two rows of figures show a shepherd leaning on his staff, surrounded by his flocks and his dog; a vintage scene is next, showing a farmer cutting down a bunch of grapes, next to another man pulling a donkey carrying the grapes in a basket; a rabbit watches the vintage scene, while a wolf or fox quietly sticks his head into a basket of grapes on the ground and eats to his full content; an adjacent hunting scene depicts an archer shooting a lion; a sleek hunting dog with a collar (perhaps a saluki, similar to the dogs on the Qasr Amra painted frescos) chases a gazelle or an oryx, which he has caught by the ankle; the uppermost set of



The 6th Century mosaic floor of the Monastery of Kaianos, depicting a Byzantine Arab soldier leading a camel (Photo courtesy of M. Piccirillo)

panels shows a hunter with a spear and shield fighting a wild boar, while a man harvests pomegranates from a tree.

The central carpet is surrounded by a darker frame full of pictures of animals and plants (birds, fish), including an open and empty bird cage, a watermelon and knife, and, in the four corners, human faces depicting the four seasons or the personifications of the four seasons at the Church of the Apostles in Madaba.

The narrower north and south naves and the spaces between the columns separating the oaves are all decorated with geometric and floral patterns. An unusual feature of this church is a large round medallion in the floor of the south nave, immediately in front of a door which linked the church with several clergy rooms to the south. Inside the medallion is an eagle flanked by the Greek letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the alphabet which were frequently used in the Byzantine period to represent Jesus Christ at the beginning and end of history. Beneath the eagle is an inscription with the name of Deacon Thomas.

Another name carved on the stone chancel screen (now being restored at Mt. Nebo) is that of Amriolos, a benefactor already known from the Kaianos monastery inscriptions.

Immediately west of the entrance of the church is an unexcavated narthex (a portico-like entrance), and surrounding it are several smaller chapels which also have not been excavated to date. There is evidence at the west end of the church that the mosaic floor was damaged and partly restored, though there is no sign of the 8th/9th Century AD iconoclastic destruction which has defaced many human and animal portraits in other mosaics in Jordan.

The mosaics in both churches have been covered with earth to protect them until they can be properly conserved and displayed for public view, either in their original locations or at Mt. Nebo or the Madaba Archaeological Museum.



Part of the central tapestry of the Church of Deacon Thomas, showing hunting, vintage and pastoral scenes.



The altar area of the Church of Deacon Thomas, with the four bases of the altar's columns surrounding a lamb.



The eagle medallion, with the name Deacon Thomas.



Part of the outer frame of the Deacon Thomas mosaic, with a fish, a duck and a human representation of the four seasons or winds.

Randa Habib's

Joyful reception

I HAVE recently been to Queen Alia International Airport, and I had an experience that I would like to share with my readers.

A large group of people were meeting their young graduate returning home from study abroad. The moment the graduate appeared at the last police checkpoint, he was met by a barrage of congratulations from all his women relatives. Then, one of the men took out a piece of paper from his pocket and started reading loud a poem, welcoming the "new doctor" back home. Applauses and kisses followed. Everybody wanted to greet the graduate, to congratulate him, to ask him how he was. A group of relatives started dancing a beautiful "dabke" in the main entrance of the airport, to the great joy of all the people. Some foreigners were absolutely charmed. They stopped and watched. Some even took photos, happy to have the opportunity to witness folkloric dances the moment they set foot in our country. Then, the graduate was literally carried to the car by his people, whose faces expressed joy and pride.

I thought it was very nice and touching. This family was happy because one of its members is now a doctor. And they were expressing their happiness openly. I think we tend to forget too easily those warm habits that are part of our entity. Personally, it took me a ride in the airport to remember the profound ties of the Jordanian family.

Barbed shafts from Tip O'Neill

By Richard Cohen

THIS is the rule laid down to every beginning journalist: Dog bites man? No story. Man bites dog? That's a story. It's for this most basic of all reasons that Man of the House, Tip O'Neill's breezy autobiography, is such fun to read. In it, the former Speaker of the House finally bites back.

Take the syndicated columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novak. O'Neill writes that shortly after he became House majority leader in 1972, the two paid him a visit: "They had the gall and temerity to offer me a deal: If I kept them informed as to what was happening in Congress and the White House, they would see to it that I would receive great press notices ... I kicked them right out of my office." (Evans calls O'Neill's story "an outrageous, wretched libel.")

Or take Ronald Reagan. O'Neill gives the president his due as a politician, public speaker, and national leader. "But I've known every president since Harry Truman, and there's no question in my mind that Ronald Reagan was the worst," O'Neill writes. "Most of the time he (Reagan) was an actor reading lines who didn't understand his own programmes. I hate to say it, but about such an agreeable man, but it was sinful that Ronald Reagan ever became president."

And what, aside from political differences, so exercised O'Neill about Reagan? The former speaker provides some specifics. He tells of the time in 1983 when Secretary of State George Shultz called him at 7 a.m. to say the Soviets had downed a Korean airliner. "What does the president think about this?" O'Neill asked. Shultz said Reagan was still asleep. "You've got to be kidding," said O'Neill. "You mean you're calling me even before you've notified the president?" Shultz said, "We'll tell him when he wakes up."

O'Neill tells of a White House meeting at which the president, in the light of the pending U.S. invasion of Grenada, described the scene in 1946 when American troops left the Philippines to the grateful cheers of Filipinos. The president said later: "I can see the day ... when the Lebanese will be standing at the shore, waving and cheering our Marines when they depart." The Marines did not depart, they retreated. And there were no cheers. He writes about a president

who reads even casual remarks off index cards, who is inattentive at meetings, and who sets policy by anecdote. He relates a Reagan story about a welfare recipient who calls around for a job, but quickly hangs up when one is offered.

"These people don't want to work," the president told a White House meeting at which O'Neill was present.

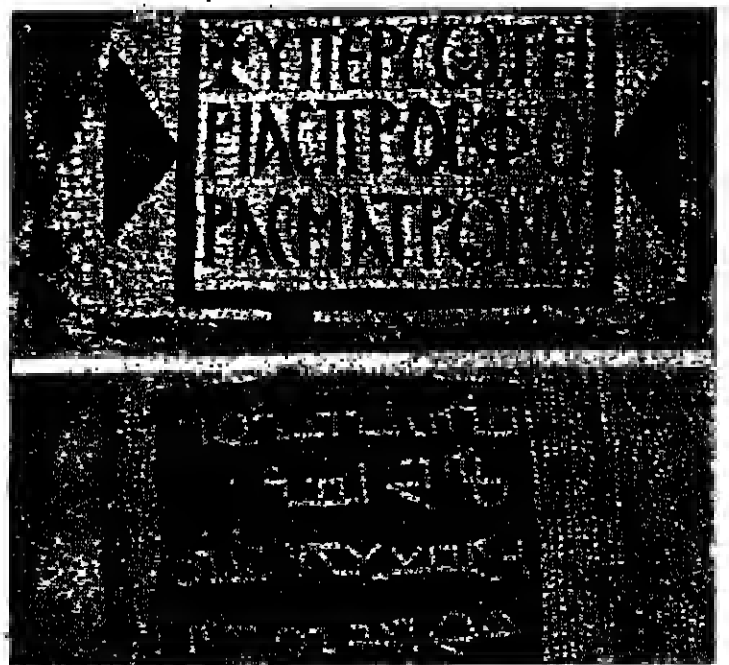
"Don't give me that crap," O'Neill exploded, and then laid into the president until an appalled Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) intervened. "This is awful," he said. "You fellows are always bickering."

O'Neill's is not the standard Washington memoir. While he remains uncritical of his friends, he does not hesitate to settle some scores. The all-but-deified Robert F. Kennedy is described as a ruthless brat. The Kennedys in general are treated kindly (especially John F. Kennedy), but O'Neill does not gloss over how they used their money to buy political success. He has a lingering respect for Jimmy Carter's intellect, but not for his political abilities. And he has nothing but contempt for most of Carter's aides, especially Hamilton Jordan.

The book has some touching moments. Here is Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), chairman of the Judiciary Committee during Watergate, listening to Richard Nixon ooze tape degrading Italians. "They're not like us," said Nixon. "They smell different, they look different, they act different. The trouble is, you can't find one that's honest." Rodino, anguished, never made that tape public. He wanted the case against Nixon to be decided on its legal merits.

The forthcoming Man of the House, written with the assistance of William Novak, is pure Tip. It is anecdotal, earthy, unpretentious and casual. For the sake of a good story, remarks are quoted verbatim when they appear to be paraphrases. With few exceptions, politicians are judged on their bonhomie, performance in the House and not on their policies.

But the real Tip O'Neill comes through. He is a man of the old school whose political ideology amounted to one word: Fairness. He left Washington on his own terms and has written a swell book to match. For years, O'Neill was the speaker who wouldn't bark. Now, we know he can bite. — The Washington Post.



The Greek and Syro-Palestinian inscriptions from the Monastery of Kaianos.



A standing dolmen on the way down from Mt. Nebo to 'Ayoun Mousa.

Greenpeace gets in shape for North Sea campaign

By Adrian Warner
Reporter

VLISSENGEN, Netherlands — The crew look far from disciplined as they stroll about ship in T-shirts and shorts, but their preparations are precise and professional.

Last month in the industrial Westerschelde estuary near this southwestern Dutch port, members of the environmental group Greenpeace completed a hard physical preparation programme for the start of their largest regional campaign this year.

For 10 days the international volunteer crew of Greenpeace's converted trawler Sirius put themselves through fitness exercises and practised protest drills like hanging onto anchor chains and jumping in front of their 450-tonne vessel as it cruised around the estuary.

Then the Dutch-registered Sirius cast anchor and waited to launch a new Greenpeace campaign to stop the burning of toxic chemical waste in the North Sea.

The 29 young men and women crammed on board the 40-metre Sirius spearheaded the campaign for a ban on large incineration boats which burn around 100,000 tonnes of chemical waste a year in the North Sea.

Greenpeace say the burning pollutes the sea, endangering marine life and those living in the

coast, a charge which the company which runs the ships denies. The ships' furnaces burn waste from cosmetic, pharmaceutical and chemical industries throughout Europe.

Waste companies say hydrochloric acid, the main substance released by the furnaces, is immediately neutralised when it mixes with the sea water.

Recently as the chemical incineration ship the Vesta sailed down the estuary from the Belgian port of Antwerp to the North Sea, several of the Sirius crew boarded it from inflatable dinghies, chaining themselves to the chimney of its furnace and hanging a banner on its side which read "ban the burn."

The Sirius then sailed to the burning site some 125 miles northwest of the northern Dutch port of Den Helder, where its crew spent a night trying to stop another ship, Vulcanus II, from burning some 2,800 tonnes of waste. They tried to board it but were fended off by water hoses.

Greenpeace failed to stop either of the two ships from burning on the site but says it will carry on with the campaign until a ban is put on incineration ships. "A chemical leak from a ship could pollute more than 300 square km," campaign coordinator Andrew Booth told Reuters on board the Sirius, anchored off Vlissingen.

"And a fire could prove fatal to inhabitants of the nearby Dutch coast if dangerous gases were released," he said.

"They must be banned and we will carry on with this campaign until they are."

"This waste burning can be done on land near its source, it just costs more to do so."

Greenpeace, which claims some 2.5 million members worldwide, has always shown a determined attitude towards its spectacular campaigns.

Funded by private contributions and run mainly by volunteers, it has launched both worldwide and regional campaigns since it was founded in 1971 in North America.

These have ranged from protest raids to stop waste dumping and nuclear testing to largely successful campaigns to protect whales, seals and other endangered animal species.

In 1983, during protests against French nuclear tests in the Pacific, a Greenpeace crewman died when the group's flagship the Rainbow Warrior was sunk by French secret agents in Auckland.

According to the group the pollution from sea dumping and burning has caused large scale environmental changes in the sea in the last five years.

"In some areas, seals and dolphins face extinction and much of

the fish population carry ulcers on their skin because of the pollution," Booth said.

"If the pollution isn't stopped in the next five years parts of the North Sea could be irreparably damaged," he said.

But the company, Ocean Combustion Service, which runs two ships burning chemical waste on the site, says the incineration is almost 100 per cent safe.

"The burning has no effect on the North Sea at all and we have commissioned independent reports to prove it," company spokesman Thijs Verdegael told Reuters.

"What is dangerous is Greenpeace's action in that narrow estuary which increases the chances of an accident 1,000-fold."

Several European governments support a halt to the dumping. The Dutch government said last week it hoped to stop sea burning of Dutch chemical waste by 1990.

The issue is also likely to figure high on the agenda of a meeting of environmental ministers from North Sea countries in London in November.

Meanwhile Greenpeace says its crew, led by former Rainbow Warrior captain Peter Wilcox, continues serious preparation for a long campaign which it hopes will influence the London meeting.

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Italian pros continue to reap golds in Mediterranean Games

By John Rice
The Associated Press

LATAKIA, Syria — Italy's Piero Italiano overtook national champion Massimo Castellani for a gold medal on the final day of springboard diving at the Mediterranean Games on Sunday, and France's Claire Izcard won the women's event, breaking an Italian monopoly on gold medals.

Izcard's victory was the first by a non-Italian in any medals final after six consecutive Italian golds in the two-day-old event.

Surprising Albania, in its first major international sports event since World War II, stunned a strong Turkish team in women's volleyball, winning 15-8, 15-3, 15-12 for its second victory without a loss.

The Italians captured four gold and three silver medals in swimming on Saturday and added the gold in team gymnastics later in the evening.

They won one gold, two silvers and a bronze in the diving events on Sunday.

Their dominance was a turnaround from the World Track and Field Championships Italy hosted last month in Rome, where Italian athletes managed only six medals in all events.

'Nice but not big feat'

"It is nice," Castellani said after winning the silver medal in diving. But, he added, "you don't feel the same as if you win in the European Championships."

Relatively few of the world's top-ranked athletes are on hand at the games, which host some 2,500 competitors from 18 European and Arab countries.

Castellani, the Italian champion, finished fifth in this year's European Championships and was leading after the first-day's competition on Saturday.

But his form fell off in later dives and teammate Italiano passed him on the two attempts and took the gold, 578.05 to 563.90.

Jerome Nalliod of France was third with 529.45.

"It's always me and Piero, me and Piero in competitions," he said, noting that the two have grown up diving against one another in Italy.

Italians Laura Schermi and Giuliana Aor scored 416.35 and 409.70 to follow Izcard's 439.65 in the women's event.

Greece vs. Turkey

Turkey's men and women demolished their arch political and sporting rivals Greece in the opening volleyball ties.

The women won 15-1, 15-8, 15-5, inside an hour.

Turkey's men won 15-6, 15-7, 16-14 after a Greek rally in the third set failed to impress the high-jumping Turks.

The Greek coach was shown a yellow card for protesting a line call and two Greeks were warned for dissent.

Jordan takes 3rd position in Arab tennis tourney

CAIRO (J.T.) — The national young Jordanian tennis team has won third place in the Arab Tennis Championships which was held recently in the Egyptian capital.

The team beat the national team of Palestine 2-1 in the closing games to secure third position among the contesting teams.

In Amman, Al Ahli female basketball team Saturday night beat Al Majd team from Syria with a score of 79-37. The match was held at Al Ahli basketball hall in Amman.



A SUCCESSFUL DIVE: Amman Club goalkeeper Khaled Abdul Fattah dives to rescue his net as Abdul Karim Shadfan, Adduften midfielder attempts a kick during Sunday night's match in the Premier League Soccer Championships. Adduften's (1-0) triumph brings the club's standing to 16 points. Adduften now tops the teams table. A capacity crowd of 25,000 fans watched the match, played at the Amman Stadium.

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Those magnificent flyers in their glider machines

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new sport has been introduced in Jordan. It can send you flying — literally. At a reasonable cost, aviation fans can now get a taste of Jordanian skies with the establishment of a club for flying glider planes in Marka.

The Royal Jordanian Glider Club (RJGC), inaugurated in December last year, has recently started its courses at the Amman Civil Airport in Marka.

With the full support of the idea by His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Qandah, the director general of the club, travelled in 1985 to various East and West European countries to buy glider planes for the club. It was decided that they would be purchased from West Germany, and in July 1985, 10 planes were delivered to Jordan. They consisted of four Grob 103 (dual seaters), two Grob 102 (single seaters), two motorised Grob 109, and one Autogyro also referred to as 'lighter than air' aircraft. In addition, the Yugoslavian built 'Uteva' is utilised for towing the gliders.

Technical support

The financial and technical support received for the establishment of the club was, according to Mr. Qandah, provided by four parties: the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Royal Jordanian Airlines, the Royal Jordanian Air Academy and from Arab Wings.

The club was established with four basic objectives in mind: to educate the Jordanian youth in the field of aviation, to encourage them to develop an interest in flying at a minimum cost, to evaluate the flying abilities of club members as prospective air force and commercial pilots, and finally to participate in international gliding competitions.

The club started from scratch. An initial training course for instructors was organised during the summer of 1985. Four Jordanian pilots with commercial licences were trained locally under the supervision of a chief glider instructor from Egypt.

Today there are five instructors, and two pilots are still under training. One of them just recently did his first solo flight. According to Mr. Qandah, they are all experienced pilots and their training on the gliders "was just a matter of conversion to a different type of plane."

Flying courses

The first course for students started on July first of this year with 23 members registered. These students underwent a week-long ground school course in which they were taught the basics of glider flying. "We studied aerodynamics, meteorology, navigation, and airways as well as the guidelines regarding flying in the Marka Airport," one member stated.

"At the end of the course we had a comprehensive exam that covered all what we studied. We then started with the actual flying."

The principle behind flying gliders is that the pilot relies on wind thermals once the plane is in



Mr. Qandah

the air. To get airborne though, the glider must have auxiliary power which it gets through the launch.

There are two different methods of launching a glider. One method entails the use of a winch which pulls the glider with a cable up to 1000 feet. At that altitude the pilot releases the cable. The performance of the glider then relies on both the weather and the skill of the pilot. To gain or maintain altitude, the pilot must look for thermals and spend sufficient time in them. When this is done, the plane's normal sink is overcome and the pilot regains the altitude lost in the downdrafts. In the case where there are no thermals the plane glides back down and lands on the airstrip.

The other methods of launching gliders is called the air tow method. In this case, the motorised 'Uteva' is used to pull the gliders up to the appropriate altitude and the cable is released in the same manner as in a winch launch. In the case of motorised gliders there is no launch procedure. Rather, the glider relies on its engine for a normal takeoff.

"The best terrain for gliders is one that has both billy and flat areas because that provides the thermals that are needed," Mr. Qandah said. "Jordan, in general, is considered to be a good terrain for flying gliders. You have the Amman, Mafrak, and Irbid areas as well as Aqaba, the Dead Sea and Wadi Rum — all suitable for flying gliders."

Flying is for the time being limited to short cross-country trips and to the circuit area (the area over Marka Airport). There are plans however to go further and do 30 and 150 km. cross-country flights in addition to trips between 'Aminah' and Aqaba.

"Right now we have one course going on, with the students considered as beginners since they have no past experience in gliders," Mr. Qandah said. "To them, this course is a chance to develop their hobby."

The next course, with 30 members registered already, is due to start in approximately ten days, according to Mr. Qandah. Those registered for the second course are aviation-oriented people, mainly pilots, engineers and experienced glider pilots.

There is a considerably large number of people in Jordan who are interested in flying gliders. So far, the club has received 210 applications from Jordanian and non-Jordanians, males and females. "We did not expect to find such a large number of people interested in flying gliders."



A motorised Grob 109 B parked on Marka Airport tarmac

ple interested in flying gliders. We were pleasantly surprised. This really gives us a better idea for our future plans," Mr. Qandah said.

At this point, students from the first course are entering the stage of solo flying. Having logged six hours of glider flying in 44 sorties, just three days ago, 17-year-old Mahmoud Al Sharaf completed his first solo flight in the Grob 103 glider. He was the first student in the club to fly solo.

Walking out of the plane after a smooth landing, and expressing excitement over his achievement, Mahmoud said "it was an awesome feeling. I was flying without my instructor. I had full control of the plane, and I had to rely on myself totally. I encourage everyone to do the same. It's great."

Ms. Jeanne Junblat, another student at the club, said "every one of us is excited not only because Mahmoud is our colleague but also because he gives us a push to continue."

Ms. Lami Nabas, who along with her husband is a member at the club, has made 14 sorties hitherto. "I was quite scared when I went on my first flight, but with experience it got easier. Now I like it a lot. It is something new and very different," she said.

Mr. Emil Dietrich, an experienced West German pilot with 3000 logged hours, goes frequently to the club to keep in tune with flying. Comparing glider flying in Jordan to that in West Germany, Mr. Dietrich said, "the weather and topographic conditions are quite different."

But the standard of glider flying here is far better than anything I have seen in the region. "I am referring to the organisation, the training, the equipment and the handling," he added that "if Jordan continues at that rate, in two or three years, it will reach European standards."

According to Mr. Qandah, gliders are considered safer than motorised planes, essentially because the glider is pulled by a cable and remains over the airport area.

But just like any other type of aviation, flying gliders has its own risks. "We had ten planes to start with but we lost one," Mr. Qandah said. In November last year, one of the motorised gliders crashed near the airport resulting in the death of a junior instructor aboard.

In glider flying, the possibility of a launch failure (such as a cable break) is always there. However, given the long wingspan of gliders, the pilot has, in

most cases, enough gliding distance to enable him to land on the same runway. Otherwise, if the pilot has enough altitude at the time of the cable break, he can go around the airport and land on the runway as though it were a normal circuit.

As for the costs of flying, those are kept at a minimum in order to make it affordable for people to enjoy their hobby. "We are running a club and providing services for the people," Mr. Qandah said. "We are not trying to make profit out of it."

The membership fee is JD 50 which covers all members of the family. There are additional annual fees of JD 6 for students, and JD 36 for the whole family. The launch charges are JD 1 per 15 minutes of flying on the non-motorised gliders, and JD 8 per hour on the motorised gliders.

According to Mr. Qandah, almost a quarter of a million dinars were spent to set up the club. With the minimal fees charged for members, the club only covers 60 per cent of its running costs. "We have thought about flying advertisement banners as a way of making income for the club."

One of the objectives which the club will be able to concentrate on at a later stage are exchanges with other clubs around the world as well as participation in international competitions. Jordan has already received invitations from Poland and West Germany for exchange programmes between pilots. According to Mr. Qandah, Jordan has already contacted the gliders organisation in France and expects to become a member in it soon.

In 1985 a team of three Jordanian pilots attended the 22nd International Hahnweide Wettbewerb Competition in Germany. "We now have an idea of how glider competitions are organised and carried out," Mr. Qandah said.

"We have also had two invitations from abroad to join in different competitions, but we are not totally ready for that yet," Mr. Qandah said. "We have also discussed the possibility of having our own competition in Jordan and inviting foreign countries to participate," he added.

New era

This club however, is not the first to be established in Jordan. According to Mr. Qandah, Jordan used to have a glider club in the Sixties but during the Six Day War all the glider planes were destroyed.

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Aquino supporters stage rally to relaunch 'people power'

MANILA (R) — Supporters of embattled Philippine President Corazon Aquino staged a rally on Sunday to relaunch "people power," a popular movement that helped sweep her into office last year.

"What we need for democracy to win is the kind of unity which we demonstrated last year," Manila Governor Jejomar Binay told 30,000 students in Manila.

Mrs. Aquino, who ousted authoritarian President Ferdinand Marcos in a civilian-backed military revolt in February 1986, is in the midst of a political crisis after crushing a bloody coup attempt led by army officers last month.

All 26 members of Mrs. Aquino's cabinet resigned last week after calls from within the military for the dismissal of some of her key advisers.

Some military personnel say they agree with claims by the coup attempt leaders that Mrs. Aquino is too soft in fighting a Communist insurgency.

Senator Joey Lina of Mrs.

Aquino's coalition party told the rally in a park that the country faced a crisis because extremists from both right and left were out to grab power.

"It seems we have forgotten what he did (last year) at Edsa," said Mr. Binay, referring to the highway in front of two military camps in Manila that hundreds of thousands of civilians blocked, defying Marcos's troops.

Senior army officers and a police commander, who played a major role in crushing last month's mutiny in which 53 people were killed and more than 300 wounded, were also at the rally.

Mrs. Aquino, who had been expected to announce some cabinet changes over the weekend, said on Saturday she would delay the announcements.

The Manila Standard newspaper, contradicting most reports, quoted presidential palace sources as saying she would retain controversial Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo, a close adviser.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos has accepted an offer by Manila to raise one million pesos (\$50,000) as a reward for information leading to the capture of Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, the leader of the Aug. 28 mutiny, who is still at large, a military spokesman said.

Mrs. Aquino has hinted to supporters that the demands of the presidency may be too much for her, a Manila newspaper columnist said on Sunday.

Malou Mangahas of the Manila Chronicle said Mrs. Aquino, who last month quelled the fifth coup attempt against her, also expressed regret she had spent most of her time in office meeting foreign guests and investors and had neglected her people and real strategic constituents.

Writing of meetings Mrs. Aquino had recently with two citizens' groups, Mangahas said she "intimated... her fears that the demands of leadership may be too much for her experience and skills."

Mangahas did not cite any specific sources. Mrs. Aquino's spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Mangahas said Mrs. Aquino spoke of her disappointment with advisers who kept her away from people and gave her advice that was "just off."

Her decision last month abruptly to raise the price of petrol, which sparked two massive transport strikes, was one error she vowed would not be committed again, Mangahas said.

Mangahas also reported Mrs. Aquino as saying the political crisis she now faced was a good development because it unmasked who her real friends were and who were "the fence-sitters among her officials."

Exiled priests return to Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Two priests banished for their outspoken opposition to Nicaragua's Sandinista government returned to a joyful welcome from nearly a thousand Roman Catholic faithful.

The Rev. Bismark Carballo, former director of the church's now closed Radio Católica, and the Rev. Benito Petito, a parish priest who is Italian, were accompanied on the flight from Miami by Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua.

They had been invited back by the government.

"I hope that peace will be a reality, that there will be an amnesty for all (political) prisoners," that the state of emergency will be lifted and that Radio Católica and the newspaper La Prensa will be reopened, Carballo told reporters after stepping off the plane Saturday night.

The Catholic broadcasting station and La Prensa, Managua's leading opposition daily, were shut down by the government, the radio station in January 1986, the newspaper in June 1986.

A new regional peace accord signed on Aug. 7 by the presidents of five Central American nations, including Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, includes calls for freedom of the press and political expression to be reestablished in Nicaragua by Nov. 7.

Cardinal Obando Y Bravo, a longtime critic of the Sandinista government's human rights record, was appointed to serve on a commission that will oversee Nicaragua's compliance with the accord.

In Washington, President Ronald Reagan said Saturday that the Central American plan for ending the conflict in Nicaragua "falls short of the safeguards for democracy" in his joint proposal with House Speaker Jim Wright.

Mr. Reagan, in his weekly radio address, spoke more harshly than previously about the plan approved in Guatemala City on Aug. 7.

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New Caledonians vote massively to stay French

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R) — The French Pacific territory of New Caledonia voted massively to remain part of France in a referendum boycotted by the main pro-independence group, authorities said on Sunday.

They said 98.30 per cent of votes cast favoured keeping the French flag flying, with 1.7 per cent voting for independence.

They said 58.99 per cent of the 85,200 voters took part in the poll.

According to official figures, 48,611 voters opted to stay within the French republic and 842 chose independence. There were 804 spoiled ballot papers.

The Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) had called for a boycott of the referendum, saying it was bound to result in a vote to stay French.

Kanak (ethnic Melanesians) are a minority of 43 per cent in the territory as a result of French immigration policy which has brought in settlers from France, Asia and Pacific countries.

The FLNKS wanted the poll restricted to Kanaks and first-generation settlers, which would have removed from the voting lists some 20 per cent of the population born outside the territory.

Typhoon Gerald kills 95, injures 100 in China

HONG KONG (R) — Ninety-five people were killed and more than 100 injured as typhoon Gerald cut a path of death and destruction through eastern China last week, a Hong Kong newspaper said on Sunday.

The pro-Peking Ta Kung Pao, quoting reports from China's two official news agencies, reported that 67 people were killed in Fujian province while 28 died in Zhejiang.

It said more than 3,000 homes were destroyed by high winds and heavy rains that also submerged roads and farms.

It said 20,000 people were isolated by floodwaters in Zhejiang's Huangyan county alone.

In Peking the overseas edition of the People's Daily said the deluge dumped up to 400 millimetres of rain in some places in the three days up to Friday, flooding 135,000 hectares (330,000 acres) of farmland.

The official New China News Agency said emergency aid was being rushed to the stricken areas.

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Pope gives lecture on morality in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (R) — This city, where jazz was born in bars and brothels and which still retains a freewheeling rhythm, was given a lecture on morality by Pope John Paul and loved it.

The Pope railed on Saturday against sex outside marriage and made a heartfelt appeal for couples to forgive each other instead of rushing to divorce.

Speaking in a state, Louisiana, where nine people have been executed in the last three months, he said blind application of the law could be the height of injustice.

And in a city where segregation of races was the rule for centuries, Pope John Paul made an impassioned plea for racial equality before an audience of 2,000 black Catholics shouting "amen," "Praise the Lord" and "Hallelujah."

On the third day of his U.S. tour, the Pope was constantly serenaded by the music of the black south, from spirituals to the jazz for which New Orleans is famous.

At a meeting with black religious leaders in a meeting room in football stadium, he said he shared the struggle of black Americans.

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He paid glowing tribute to the civil rights struggle of the 1960s and its murdered hero, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

He warned as well against drug abuse, materialism and hedonism.

New Orleans reacted to the messages with the glee it usually reserves for Mardi Gras.

The emotion-charged atmosphere continued at an open-air mass later where heavy rain failed to keep away a crowd of 150,000 and leading musicians played religious songs.

The city's current princes of jazz, heirs to Kid Thomas, Louis Armstrong and King Oliver, starred at the jazz mass, making "Amazing Grace" and "Nearer My God to Thee" swing.

City officials renamed the street outside Saint Louis cathedral for him, calling it Place Jean Paul.

The pontiff didn't get the keys to the city, but he didn't appear to need them since every door was open wide in welcome.

The crowds were large and cheering, in sharp contrast to Friday's receptions in Miami and Columbia, South Carolina.

Bush finishes third in Iowa Republican poll

AMES, Iowa (R) — In a major setback for Vice-President George Bush, Evangelist Pat Robertson won a Republican-sponsored presidential preference poll taken on Saturday night and Senator Robert Dole finished second.

Mr. Bush, the frontrunner for his party's presidential nomination, had been expected to win the preference poll, but instead finished third.

Rev. Robertson, a television Evangelist who has not been given much of a chance in the contest, received 1,293 votes, or nearly 33.7 per cent, to Sen. Dole's 958 votes, or nearly 25 per cent.

Mr. Bush finished with 864 votes, or just under 23 per cent of the ballots. Fourth place went to Representative Jack Kemp of New York who had nearly 14 per cent, with 520 votes. Former Delaware Governor Pete Du Pont had four per cent, with 160 votes.

The vote came at a "cavalade of stars" sponsored by the State Republican Party. Seven candidates were allowed to speak, although voting was allowed even before the event began. More than 5,000 people attended.

Because Iowa holds one of the first presidential contests in the nation, the preferences of its voters are considered significant in the political quest for the White House.

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U.S.-style high school opens in Muscat

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — The first U.S.-style high school in the Gulf Arab state of Oman opened in Muscat after the U.S. State Department stepped in to help American parents unable to find schooling for their children. The American British Academy, recognised by the State Department, provided a \$30,000 grant toward U.S. staffing and costs at the school where currently one-third of the teachers are American. Although the school will be self-financing through pupil fees and deposits, the grant is likely to be increased next year. The school will have an integrated American-British curriculum. The U.S. Ambassador to Muscat, G. Cranwell Montgomery, opened the facility which flies the Omani flag, although Omani children are forbidden to attend it under government education regulations. The largest single group on the school roll are the 60 children of American parents in Oman's 1,100-strong U.S. community. The opening of the academy, which has 277 pupils in a mix of 32 nationalities aged from 4 to 16, follows the closure this summer of the secondary department of Muscat's privately-run multi-national English-speaking school. It was the only school then open to American families in Muscat. Despite appeals from them, school governors said it was not viable to keep it open. The U.S. government's community liaison officer in Muscat, Mrs. Nancy Hall, said: "Many American families would have had to leave Oman this summer if the new academy had not been established. Everyone's delighted. It's a tremendous achievement."

Pakistan seizes 450 kg of hashish

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan customs officers seized 450 kilograms of hashish destined for Saudi Arabia, the second large haul in three days, a customs spokesman said on Sunday. He said they seized 620 kilograms of hashish worth 1.8 million rupees (\$100,000) on Wednesday from freezers containing fish for Saudi Arabia. The latest discovery was made on Saturday but the drug smugglers escaped.

China jails pimps

HONG KONG (R) — China has jailed 14 people and sentenced 33 prostitutes to labour reform in a crackdown on vice on the island of Hainan, a Hong Kong newspaper said on Sunday. The pro-Peking Wen Wei Po said jail terms of up to five years were given to pimps and a hotel security guard in the city of Haikou on the island off China's south east coast. It did not say when the raids took place but said most of the customers were allegedly Hong Kong Chinese or foreigners. The daily said a recent rise in prostitution had led to a surge in venereal disease.

Staller wants sex to replace religion

ROME (R) — Porn-queen politician Ilona Staller has called for religious education to be replaced with sex lessons in Italian schools. The 37-year-old sex star, better known as "La Cicciolina" (little fleshy one), criticised school religion classes which she said portrayed sex as sin instead of an act of pleasure. Staller, who was elected to parliament in June, said in a statement that the one hour of weekly religious instruction in schools should become sex education sessions so young people can "meet each other freely and learn how to love one another". "The teaching of religion increases the climate of sexual phobia in schools, linking sex with sin and the duty to procreate instead of with the pleasures of love and life," Staller said. Parliament is next week due to debate the controversial issue of students opting out of religion classes for alternative studies following a 1985 revised concordat between Italy and the Vatican which ended Catholicism's status as the state religion.

Italy seizes hashish worth \$38m

LA SPEZIA, Italy (R) — Italian customs seized hashish with a street value of about \$50 million (€38 million) on a ship which docked two days ago from Pakistan, officers have said. The hashish weighed five tonnes and was packed into false-bottoms of hundreds of boxes in a container aboard the ship which docked in La Spezia on the north-west coast of Italy. The ship came from Karachi and customs police said they believed the container was to be sent by rail to Genoa and then on to Switzerland. Security checks have been stepped up on ships entering Italian ports after the seizure in Bari last week of weapons and drugs aboard a Lebanese ship. Thirty three people were subsequently arrested.

Expert admits faking 'oldest paper'

PEKING (R) — The invention of paper has moved forward 200 years to A.D. 105 after a Chinese archaeologist admitted he faked evidence of the more ancient find 30 years ago, the China Daily has reported. In a front-page article Peking's English-language newspaper said there was now no room for doubt that Cai Lun, a court eunuch of China's eastern Han Dynasty, invented the world's first paper in the year 105 using wood-bark, rags, flax, and fishing nets as raw materials. Cai Lun and his invention were removed from history books, dictionaries, and museums in 1957 when China's Academy of Social Sciences accepted as valid a claim by archaeologist Chen Xuehua that he had found paper 200 years older in an excavated tomb near the historic city of Xian in Central China. Recent research by scientists from the China Paper-making Association controlled by the Ministry of Light Industry forced Chen to admit having faked his find, the newspaper said. The association's experts used modern instruments to establish that the flax material Chen had found had not been subjected to the processing needed to turn it into paper. It was no more than a leftover of textiles used to protect a bronze mirror, matted together over the centuries by the earth's moisture. China Daily said Chen then admitted having processed more of the flax remains from the tomb into paper-like sheets by soaking them and pressing them between sheets of glass. It described him as an amateur who at the time of his find had received only three months' training in archaeology.

Looted icon recovered

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An Australian of Cypriot origin on Saturday returned an icon stolen from a church in the Turkish-occupied part of the island to the refugees of the village where the church is located. Jim David, who emigrated to Australia when he was 10 years old, said he bought the Byzantine-style icon of Saint Therapon from an antique shop in Sydney, where he lives. Father Papagrigorios Argyros, the priest of the village of Yerolakkos (holy well), from whose church the icon was stolen, received the recovered relic from David at a brief ceremony also attended by a group of Yerolakkos villagers. "We thank the almighty that our precious icon has been returned to us," said the bearded, black-cassocked priest, crossing himself as he kissed the icon. The other villagers also stood in line to kiss the icon. David said that dozens of looted icons, other church relics and antiques of the classical Greek and Roman period from the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus have found their way to the Australian antique market. Most of these were provided by Turkish Cypriot emigrants, he said.

3 Vietnamese diplomats punished

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Two Vietnamese diplomats were fired and a third was reprimanded for misusing diplomatic passports, Voice of Vietnam radio said. The Friday report said Trinh Xuan An, a first secretary, was recalled from his post, dismissed from office and expelled from the Communist Party. Do Kiem also was fired and given a warning by the party, said the radio report, monitored Saturday in Bangkok. A third diplomat, attache Hoang Vinh Loi, was recalled from studies overseas and reprimanded, the report said. The three were among 14 officials who "used diplomatic passports in an irresponsible fashion or abused these travel documents to import goods in violation of regulations," said the report, which attributed its information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report did not say where the three had been stationed.

Dhaka invites Kabul to join U.N. body

DHAKA (Agencies) — Bangladesh has invited Afghanistan to join a Dhaka-based United Nations body on rural development for Asia and the Pacific, Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam said on Sunday.

He told newsmen Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, in a letter to his Afghan counterpart Abdul Wakil, has invited Kabul to be the 12th member of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP).

Western diplomats said they were surprised by the invitation

because it contrasted with Dhaka's refusal last week to meet two Afghan envoys who came to seek support for Kabul's efforts to join two international organisations.

The envoys, who included Afghan ambassador to India Abdul Samad Azhar, came to discuss membership of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and re-entry to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

CIRDAP was set up in 1979 with head offices in Dhaka at the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Its present members are Baog-

ladesh, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Its main aim is to promote cooperation among member countries in rural development mainly through research, training and exchange of information.

Mr. Islam said Afghanistan is still a member of the United Nations and it could not be stopped from being a member of the CIRDAP.

"But its (Afghanistan's) membership in SAARC and OIC are quite a different matter," he said.

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Zimbabwe raises new brigade to face South African threat

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe (AP) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has said his government was forced to raise a sixth army brigade to fend off South African destabilisation in the region.

Mr. Mugabe, reviewing about 5,000 soldiers of the new 6th Brigade at Llewellyn Barracks near Bulawayo, said Saturday Zimbabwe had to defend its sovereignty and safeguard its trade routes to Indian Ocean ports in neighbouring Mozambique from sabotage by South African-backed guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance

(MNR).

The white-led government in Pretoria has repeatedly denied links to the Mozambique rebels.

The MNR rebels have often attacked highways, railroads and an oil pipeline linking landlocked Zimbabwe with the Mozambique port of Beira, forcing Mr. Mugabe to send some 12,000 troops from his 45,000-strong army to that country to protect strategic installations.

"The formation of the 6th Brigade was not a reaction to an imaginary threat, nor a subjective desire for a large army," Mr. Mugabe said at the parade.

ESA returns to space race after 16 months

PARIS (AP) — The European Space Agency (ESA), with a backlog of 46 satellites waiting for launch, plans to jump back into the space race Tuesday after a 16-month hiatus caused by technical failure.

Officials at ESA and Ariane-space, the commercial arm of the 13-nation space consortium, are brimming with confidence and anxious to get moving again after the failure of their 18th shot.

On May 31, 1986, technicians destroyed an Ariane 2 rocket 4½ minutes after it lifted off from the ESA's space centre at Kourou, French Guiana, on the northern coast of South America. It turned the \$55-million telecommunications satellite into a ball of fire.

The U.S. space shuttle is still grounded after the Jan. 28, 1986, disaster that killed seven astronauts and probably won't fly again before next summer.

This appears to put Ariane in the commercial driver's seat with \$2.45 billion worth of launch contracts in its pocket.

Satellite customers have maintained faith in the European launcher. Ariane-space says it has signed 11 new launch contracts since the 1986 setback. The current schedule calls for two more launches this year, eight next year and nine in 1989.

"We are perfectly confident in the success of this flight," said Roland Deschamps, secretary-general of Ariane-space. "We have done everything necessary to make it a success."

Noting that 1986 was a "black year" for space launches,